Hafa Adai!

Weapons recovered, arrest made. PAGE 2
Cook gets 2 years in prison for 'ice' possession. PAGE 3

75¢

Saipan Tribune

'COMMITMENT PLEDGE'
Public and private school students make a "commitment pledge" to become global leaders in environmental conservation at the 2nd E-Land Youth Environmental Alliance held Nov. 14 at the Kensington Hotel.
See story and photo on Page 2
BEA CABRERA

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'A Sun client died in delivery'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of Sen Sun's pregnant clients died during childbirth this year, according to assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto yesterday.

In pushing for Sun's continued detention pending trial, Benedetto said it is his understanding that one of Sun's pregnant clients died, leading to a verbal confrontation between the woman's husband and Sun.

See SUN on Page 4

Tech industry weighed as an option

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the CNMI economy up and humming, the next step is to diversify that economy and one of the options the Torres administration is looking at is developing a tech industry, according to Matthew Deleon Guerrero, Torres' chief of staff and member of the governor's Strategic Economic Development Council.

Deleon Guerrero said the need for economic diversification is something that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres envisions and the potential of the tech industry in the CNMI is very attractive.

"Branching out to the tech industry is being carefully given a lot of weight, planning and discussions. There are a lot of opportunities there and

See TECH on Page 4

BOE: Allowing retirees to 'double dip' incentivizes early retirement

» **Saipan mayor, BOE say double dipping retirees are too expensive**

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education has cautioned against allowing retirees to re-enter the workforce without any negative consequence, saying this will create an atmosphere that will motivate government employees to retire early so they can "double dip."

In a letter from BOE vice chair Janice Tenorio, the board expresses concern that Sen. Justo Quitugua's (Ind-Saipan) Senate Legislative Initiative

See BOE on Page 4

BEH sounds alarm vs makeshift food vendors

Individuals or companies selling food or drinks out of makeshift stores or even cars without securing sanitary permits have raised alarm bells for the Bureau of Environmental Health.

In a statement yesterday, the bureau said these vendors peddle food items such as hot lunches, snacks, vegetables, etc. and operate from fixed establishments and/or mobile delivery vehicles without se-

See BEH on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
Washington Republicans tightens its pressure on Alabama's GOP.
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Filipino president calls Justin Trudeau's drug war comments insulting.
PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
People magazine names Blake Shelton its Sexiest Man Alive for 2017.
PAGE 21

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Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres poses with newly sworn-in Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board members Weston Thomas Deleon Guerrero and Matthew Holley and friends and family at the Office of the Governor.

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Eli Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Acting Director

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 9:30AM at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of October 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes

II. **PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW**
A. Project: Chieng Tan dba Zen Homes, LLC – Proposal to construct a four-story apartment building comprised of two- and three-bedroom apartment units with parking and landscaping for commercial use in Gualo Rai.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-039
a) Project Presentation
b) Discussion & Review of Project
c) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Final Determination*

B. Project: Isa Villas Partners, LLC – Proposal to construct multi-family development complex with two 3-story concrete buildings of 27 housing units on Capitol Hill.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-111
d) Project Presentation
e) Discussion & Review of Project
f) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Final Determination*

C. Project: Marianas Management Corporation – Proposal to build Gualo Rai Office Park on the corner of Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) and Gualo Rai Road in Gualo Rai. The planned development includes two office buildings and a new U.S. District Courthouse building.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-08
a) Project Presentation
b) Discussion & Review of Project
c) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Certification of Completeness*

D. Project: Hui Tao Tsang dba Royal View Hotel – The Royal View Hotel proposes to construct a 5-story hotel building with amenities on the former "Sunleader Market" site on Beach Road in Garapan. The development will include a total of 51 guest rooms with single and double rooms, a snack bar and dining areas with seating capacity for 72, and 42 parking spaces.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-011
a) Project Presentation
b) Discussion & Review of Project
c) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Certification of Completeness*

E. Project: Man Bao Corp. dba Fantastic Gardens – After the fact permit application for construction of a 3-story hotel with twenty-six rooms immediately south of Hans Tire Shop and north of the former cockfight arena.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-016
a) Project Presentation
b) Discussion & Review of Project
c) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Certification of Completeness*

III. **OTHER MATTERS**

A. Discussion of Pending Projects
a. Verify Certification of Completeness, Saipan Vegas
B. Regulatory Revision Update

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**
All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Acting Director, DCRM

Torres to CUC board: Always emphasize transparency

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres administered the oath of office Wednesday morning to new Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board members Weston Thomas Deleon Guerrero and Matthew Holley.

Deleon Guerrero and Holley, who were recently confirmed by the Senate, expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Commonwealth in a critical capacity to not only solve urgent needs, but to contribute to long-term solutions.

Torres said the CUC board is critical to the Commonwealth's infrastructure and any decision will affect the lives of the entire community.

"As board [members], you assume a very important responsibility, and I strongly recommend that you always emphasize transparency in your decisions. For the betterment of our Commonwealth, it is critical that we move forward and progress in a way that will improve the lives of our community and provide the most affordable and reliable power, water, and wastewater services," he said.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho said he is pleased to move forward to enhance utility services while ensuring the safety of CUC employees and the community.

Deleon Guerrero and Holley officially join Jovita Paulino representing Tinian, Miranda San Nicolas Manglona representing Rota, and Ignacio Perez, the Commonwealth Development Authority's representative on the board.

Deleon Guerrero serves as a structural engineer for Hofschneider Engineering Corp. and previously worked as a building safety official and structural engineering staff at the CNMI Department of Public Works, and a steel bridge project manager at the Society of Civil & Structural Engineers.

Holley is currently a litigation attorney at Torres Brothers LLC and previously worked as an in-house counsel at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., an assistant public defender for the Office of the Public Defender, and was an adjunct professor for three years at the Northern Marianas College.

CUC is a semi-autonomous agency of the CNMI government. As a semi-autonomous agency, the CUC has an independent board of directors, whose members serve a concurrent four-year term. ***(PR)***

SDA celebrates 45 years of service

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted one of its biggest community fairs and health expos to celebrate 45 years of service to the Marianas last Sunday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The church highlighted the 45th anniversary of the SDA Clinic and the 35th anniversary of the SDA School during the celebration.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who was one of several guest speakers, the SDA family has been a fundamental part of Saipan's growth. "Their dedication and loyalty is greatly valued and respected," he added.

"The community truly appreciates the many years of service by SDA that has contributed and continues to contribute to making our community healthy and safe," Apatang added.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said that SDA achieving 45 years of service to the Marianas is a milestone.

Sablan said it's important to celebrate with SDA because they were one of the first dental clinics on Saipan. "They've been here and they stayed here and they continue to provide excellent service," he said.

Sablan is a witness to the quality services of SDA because, as a child, he was terrified of dentists, but the SDA clinic helped him conquer that fear.

At the community fair, SDA had bouncy houses for the children, raffle prizes, an oral cancer checking booth, a body-mass index checking booth, an educational booth, blood sugar and blood pressure checks, and organic meals.

According to SDA Clinic director Dr. Kenneth Pierson, the community fair and expo was both for SDA to celebrate while also benefitting the community they serve.

IN DISTURBING THE PEACE INCIDENT

Weapons recovered, arrest made

Norita

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, at about 11:50am, police responded to a disturbing the peace incident at a residence in Chalan Kanoa. Upon arrival police met with the victim, a 23-year-old male and learned that an argument had occurred between the victim and his uncle (suspect), 42-year-old Joseph Ichihara Norita.

The suspect allegedly threatened to shoot the victim, who called the police.

Police recovered several firearms at the home. The report did not indicate the type of weapons seized. Norita was arrested on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. Additional charges are forthcoming.

This case is pending further investigation. ***(PR)***

Cook gets 2 years in prison for 'ice' possession

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a move meant to signal his tough-on-drug-dealers policy, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho handed down yesterday a two-year prison term on a man who pleaded guilty to illegal possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

The judge also noted what he called the "apparent lenient approach" of the Office of the Attorney General on drug dealers.

Joselito Pineda Sioco, 48, was directed to spend his two-year sentence without the possibility of parole. Sioco, also known as Jojo, was given credit for 152 days of time served. He also faces a mandatory fine of $2,000.

The clerk of court was directed to provide a copy of the sentencing order to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Sioco is a citizen of the Philippines.

At yesterday's sentencing, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds recommended a sentence of five years imprisonment. Assistant public defender Shoshana Epstein, counsel for Sioco, recommended a prison sentence of one year or less.

The OAG originally charged Sioco with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance and two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 60 years.

The OAG later amended the charges to only one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance. That carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment.

In his sentencing order, Camacho said he weight of 5 grams of "ice" is equal to five paper clips, with a street value of about $1,000.

He noted that last Sept. 27, Attorney General Edward Manibusan published his policy titled "On drug prosecution, a balanced approach to the ice epidemic," which he said takes a "soft, lenient approach" to drug dealers selling "ice" under 5 grams.

Camacho said this explains why no drug dealer has been convicted of trafficking "ice" in the past three years. Most often, they were offered plea bargains for mere possession of "ice," he added.

In Sioco's case, Camacho said, there was nothing on the record that he cooperated with law enforcement that led to the arrest and conviction of other criminals, or that Sioco had a mental illness or disability, or his age or youth or other mitigating factors.

Camacho said that, in line with Manibusan's "soft, lenient policy on drug dealers," the OAG removed 55 years of a possible consecutive sentence.

To put it another way, Camacho said, the OAG gave a 91-percent "discount" on the possible maximum consecutive sentence.

The OAG had recommended a five-year prison term for Sioco.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officers arrested him in June. According to the plea deal, Sioco was found in possession of 0.8 gross grams of "ice" on April 4, 2017.

A "cooperating source" allegedly managed to buy "ice" from Sioco during two "buy-walk" operations.

Last September, Sioco signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance.

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HYUNDAI

2017 ACCENT

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7H232	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H247	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
~~7H251~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
7H257	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H258	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
~~7H259~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
7H260	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H261	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H270	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H272	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995

2017 VELOSTER

~~7H220~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$17,995~~
7H233	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H235	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H263	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H264	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

2018 ELANTRA

8H010	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

2017 TUCSON

7H262	BLUE, 4 -CYL. ENGINE, AT,BACK-UP CAM,ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H268	BLACK, 4 -CYL. ENGINE, AT,BACK-UP CAM,ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H274	BLACK, 4 -CYL. ENGINE, AT,BACK-UP CAM,ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H278	PEARL, 4 -CYL. ENGINE, AT,BACK-UP CAM,ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995

MITSUBISHI

2017 OUTLANDER SE

~~7M037~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$25,995~~
7M038	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995
7M040	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995

mazda

2018 MAZDA 3

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
~~8D023~~	~~BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$18,995~~
8D025	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$18,995
8D026	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEEL	$4,000	$18,995
8D037	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEEL	$4,000	$18,995
8D039	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEEL	$4,000	$18,995
8D040	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEEL	$4,000	$18,995
8D027	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D028	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D041	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D042	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D014	GRAY, LEATHER SEAT, AT, HATCHBACK, GRAND TOURING	$4,000	$22,995

2017 MAZDA 6

~~7D226~~	~~BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, SPORT~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$20,995~~
7D242	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, TOURING	$4,000	$21,995

2017 MX-5

7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
~~7D203~~	~~RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP~~ SOLD	~~$8,000~~	~~$25,995~~

2018 CX-3 SPORT

~~8D043~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D045	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
~~8D048~~	~~BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D049	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D050	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D051	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995

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BOE

From Page 1

20-01 not only would cost the CNMI government more but also would create a situation that encourages the early retirement of government employees, just to "go through the rehiring process again."

SLI 20-01 seeks to amend the CNMI Constitution to allow retirees to rejoin the workforce as classroom teachers, doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals without losing their pension benefits for an unlimited time.

Right now, "double dipping"—getting paid a salary while also receiving a pension—is only allowed for at most two years. After that, retirees that rejoin the government workforce lose their retirement benefits as they are considered employed.

A retiree refers to someone who has at least 20 years of service with the government.

SLI 20-01 garnered unanimous support from the Senate in mid-July 2017.

According to Tenorio's letter, not only should the Legislature first consider the salary and pay grades retirees are permitted to rejoin the work force, but also look at its indirect effect.

"We believe that allowing retirees to rejoin the workforce without suspending the receipt of their benefits might incentivize everyone working in government to simply retire at their 20-year mark," said Tenorio, adding that the Public School System would lose teachers only to be hired as retirees.

Tenorio also pointed out that retirees retired for a reason, and their time once they return to the workforce may be short-lived.

"We would have a high turnover of teachers and administrators rejoining the system, just to retire again," she said.

Retirees might be too expensive

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who also submitted comments on SLI 20-01, suggested something other than a constitutional amendment.

"By that, we mean maybe we should…offer very competitive salaries that attract highly qualified teachers, nurses, doctors, and other professions in the medical field," said Apatang, adding that should the voters approve SLI 20-01, it would "cost our government almost the same as offering very competitive salaries and benefits to non-pensioners."

Apatang also pointed out that it makes little sense to amend the constitution to permit the recruitment of retirees to "take on jobs that we know require advanced training and education."

Tenorio also brought up the costs associated with allowing retirees to double dip.

"If the initiative is meant to allow former retirees to enter the workforce at the highest level of the scale, we may create a situation where the central government and autonomous agencies cannot afford to pay them based on their experience," she said.

For PSS, retirees would be placed at the "very top of the pay scale" due to their experience.

"This would mean that PSS' budget for personnel would be spent on a few number of people to fill a small amount of vacancies," said Tenorio, adding that PSS could hire more teachers for less money.

"This is not to say that we do not want to hire high quality and experienced teachers but, if we are forced to hire former retirees, we may end up filling fewer positions for more money."

NMC: Fresh grads would compete with retirees

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who also submitted comments on SLI 20-01, pointed out that NMC wants to ensure that "[fresh graduates] are able to join the local labor force without having to compete for job opportunities against retirees."

"There are a growing number of programs that are available and that are geared specifically to filling positions in the education and medical fields," Fernandez wrote in her comments.

Some members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. believe that allowing retirees to double dip indefinitely "may not be ideal."

Of the six that submitted comments on SLI 20-01, only Rota Mayor Ephraim Atalig was in support. According to Atalig, should the retirees re-enter the CNMI workforce, it ensures that "dollars would stay in the CNMI."

"The more we hire from the outside, the more money [leaks out] of the CNMI," he said in his comments, adding that even if the government spends "billions on education and [the] training of our people," the CNMI would continue to hire nonresidents.

"But, at least, passage of the bill would minimize the importation of nonresident workers," said Atalig.

A violation

According to Settlement Fund trustee Joyce Tang, SLI 20-01 does not comport with the Settlement Agreement.

Because the initiative "attempts to change the benefits received by a retiree returning to government service in contravention [of Public Law 6-41, section 15, or the 'double dipping' statute]," the initiative would be in violation of the Settlement Agreement, she said.

"…Any legislation modifying the benefits of a class member is ineffective without the consent of the Settlement Fund and the NMI District Court's approval," wrote Tang, adding that if SLI 20-01 is passed into law, it would have no effect under the Settlement Agreement.

"The parties of the Settlement Agreement must comply with all laws and terms of the Settlement Agreement. For this reason, SLI 20-01 if passed, would violate the terms of the Settlement Agreement and the order approving the agreement," said Tang.

For SLI 20-01 to take effect, at least three-fourths of both the House of Representatives and the Senate should vote for its passage. Following its passage, voters of the CNMI would then have to vote on it at the next regular election.

As of publication, the House JGO committee voted 3-0 to set SLI 20-01 aside for further discussion. Committee members John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Francisco Aguon (R-Saipan), Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), and Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) were absent at the Nov. 1 meeting.

"We postpone further deliberations on the bill to seek [the] legal counsel's advice on the merits of Ms. Joyce Tang's concerns," said committee chair Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan).

BEH

From Page 1

curing sanitary permits.

"Pursuant to CNMI statute, Public Law 12-48 and the public health food regulations, all dispensed food and drink shall lawfully meet minimum standards to keep consumables safe from the beginning of food processing to the point of consumer consumption," the bureau said.

The agency added that subsequent sections in the regulations require all food service establishment employees and/or employers obtain a food handlers certificate, validating the completion of mandatory food safety training and health examination.

The bureau recommends that consumers take an interest in their own health by assessing the health risk of food/drink purchased from unmarked mobile delivery vehicles, unlabeled packaged meat, and unmarked delivery vehicles transporting food, water, vegetables, or meat.

The agency strongly recommends that consumers:

■ Only purchase hot food kept at temperatures of 140 degrees Fahrenheit and above

■ Only purchase cold food, such as sandwiches, kept at temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit

■ Ensure that vegetables purchased are kept at a chilled temperature below 40 degrees Fahrenheit

■ Ensure that raw meat and daily caught fish are chilled and iced to temperatures of 32-40 degrees Fahrenheit

In addition, delivery vehicles must carry a sanitary permit that is accessible for inspection by customers or bureau should be available for verification upon request.

BEH said customer complaints have alleged that many food and drink delivery vehicles are transporting goods without business placards on the vehicle signifying that the vehicle is compliant with bureau requirements for a sanitary permit.

Should you have any questions or concerns about food or drinks being sold, contact the bureau on Navy Hill at 664-4872/73/76, fax concerns to 664-4871, or email John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp.

Helpful information to have on hand when reporting a complaint to the BEH office include license plate number, time, date, and location of food/drink dispensed. ***(PR)***

TECH

From Page 1

we are looking at how public policy can help drive innovation in the economy. The governor hopes to entice alternative industries and mainland companies to set up shop and to build a stronger foothold in the CNMI," he said.

"One of the governor's big efforts now is to diversify the economy. Economic diversification is a great key policy element in the current time frame.

"It's easier to diversify the economy when there is economic activity happening. We do not only want to focus on one or two industries because the reality is there is so much opportunity available," Deleon Guerrero added.

He said that there are a lot of talks on how best the government can position the CNMI to start and sustain a tech industry.

"Studies on capital, preferential tax rates, geographical location, U.S. intellectual property rights, and protection within the constitution are vital as these factors into being an area in the Pacific that offers potential to the tech industry firms," he said.

"That way, it does add another economic sector within the community and also provide more opportunities for students where they can see a future that will encourage them to pursue engineering, math, and science fields," he added.

Aside from studying intrinsic elements that help build the tech industry, extrinsic elements are also being considered.

"To be able to sustain a tech industry on island, we are making sure we have available internet access as tech infrastructure is growing with the fiber optic cables. We are also making improvements on the efficiency of the generating capacity of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to be able to handle an energy intensive industry," Deleon Guerrero said.

"With economic growth comes other factors that would be [required by] higher skilled [workers] from the United States so we [could] entice them to work here, such as hospital, restaurants, perks, and the lifestyle. Part of the long-term plan of diversifying is promoting sustainability and increased opportunities for individuals and this is what it's all about," he added.

Deleon Guerrero said this is an opportune time to talk about diversification.

"It is critical and important to talk about these things and make improvements necessary to sustain the economic growth of the CNMI. We are positioning ourselves to make sure we elevate our level of development and quality of life for the population," he said.

"The governor is keeping watch on building the workforce to maintain the economic growth and that we have the infrastructure to make sure we get the right policies," he added.

SUN

From Page 1

Benedetto did not provide other details about the death and the alleged confrontation.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy later allowed Sun to post an $8,500 bond and his release to a third-party custodian.

Sun, an alleged overstaying Chinese tourist, was indicted in federal court for allegedly operating an unlicensed business that offered trip packages to the CNMI for pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth here.

The indictment charged Sun with harboring illegal aliens, unlawfully employing aliens, and money laundering.

At a detention hearing yesterday, Benedetto also disclosed that the Department of Public Safety recently investigated Sun for robbery and assault and battery, but that he does not have details about the case.

He said that Sun has been lying about the sources of his income and lied to federal enforcement that he lost his passport a long time ago, despite not reporting the alleged loss to authorities.

Benedetto noted that the FBI retrieved a photo of Sun's passport from casino records.

He said the casino took a photo of Sun's passport as it showed that the defendant had payment redemption in the amount of $20,000, $30,000, and $100,000 between Sept. 22, 2017 and Oct. 8, 2017.

These records, he said, belied Sun's claim that he lost his passport.

Benedetto said the evidence shows that Sun is not forthcoming to law enforcement and his gambling history is significant.

Benjamin Petersburg, the court-appointed counsel for Sun, said that Sun has a 3-year-old son born here on Saipan.

Petersburg said that Sun has no prior criminal record and was indeed arrested for robbery, but there's no information or report about it.

Petersburg said the evidence shows that Sun was aware of the investigation in the federal case but he did not flee the CNMI.

Petersburg said any risk of flight can be mitigated by placing his client on location monitoring and setting other conditions.

Kennedy later released Sun to a third-party custodian, Yong Park. He will be subjected to a location monitoring program and restriction to Park's house at all times except for court hearings, medical appointments, or with the court's permission.

Petersburg will continue as Sun's counsel for now, but Sun may be assessed attorney's fees at the end of the lawyer's representation.

As tax bill nears, Kilili asks Torres for Marianas data

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has asked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his help in analyzing the impact of tax legislation now being debated in Congress.

In a letter to Torres last week, Sablan requested data on the number of Marianas tax filers using 10 different tax deductions or credits that are proposed to be cut. He also asked for the total dollar value of each of the deductions or credits.

The Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives has already made public its bill, H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Republicans in the Senate are expected to release their legislation soon. President Donald J. Trump has set a deadline of this year for passage of a tax bill.

"As a mirror tax jurisdiction, any changes to the personal income tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code applies to the Marianas and to taxpayers in the Marianas," Sablan said. "I need to know exactly which of the proposed changes hurt Marianas taxpayers, which do not, and what the total impact will be, if H.R. 1 is enacted."

Among the deductions that are on the chopping block are the deduction for teachers that allows them to reduce their taxable income by up to $250 for professional training or supplies purchased for the classroom and the deduction for student loan interest that helps reduce the cost of higher education.

"I am also concerned about the loss of the tax credit for the cost of dependent care assistance," Sablan said. "Right now, families that pay for day care for their children, so parents can go to work, and families caring for aging parents can deduct some of those expenses from their taxes. The House tax bill takes that credit away."

Another deduction taxpayers can take to reduce taxable income is the moving expense deduction.

"Being able to deduct moving expenses is an important incentive when we try to convince people to return home to the Marianas to work," Sablan explained. "Loss of that deduction could undercut our effort to bring more U.S. workers into our labor force."

Sablan said he is also concerned about the loss of the 10 percent tax bracket as proposed in the Republican bill.

"We have many low-income families in the Marianas. Right now, a married couple earning less than $19,050 pays 10 percent on their 1040CM. Under the Republican plan they will pay 12 percent.

Sablan

"This is sometimes justified by changes in the standard deduction that lowers taxable income. The standard deduction is being raised from $12,700 for a couple to $24,000.

"Unfortunately, at the same time, the personal exemption, which also reduces taxable income, is being taken away.

"So, a family of four with a current standard deduction and four exemptions worth $28,900 would be left with only that $24,000 to deduct from their taxable income. And instead of a 10 percent tax on the net income they could be charged 12 percent."

H.R. 1 also takes away the additional personal exemption for seniors, worth $1,550 for single filers and $2,500 for married couples.

Lower revenue

In his letter to Torres, Sablan said he was concerned not only with the impact of the tax bill on individuals and families, but also with the effect on the Commonwealth's tax revenues. Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated that H.R. 1 will reduce federal revenues by about $1.5 trillion over a 10-year period. Because the Marianas mirrors the federal tax system, the Commonwealth could also expect some decrease in revenue.

Torres, along with other insular area governors, wrote to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate tax committees in October, asking that they take into consideration the potentially negative impacts of reform legislation on island jurisdictions.

Other members of Congress can assess the impact of the tax bill on their states and districts using data from the U.S. Treasury. But, because the Commonwealth Division of Revenue and Taxation, not the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, collects taxes in the Marianas, only the Commonwealth has the information needed to know how much the bill now being debated in Congress could affect Marianas taxpayers. ***(PR)***

Torres assures response to Kilili

Torres

The Torres administration said yesterday that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has received Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) letter and will provide a response with the necessary data as it arrives from the CNMI Department of Finance through the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

In a statement, Torres said the relationship the CNMI has with the Internal Revenue Code as a mirror code jurisdiction is complex.

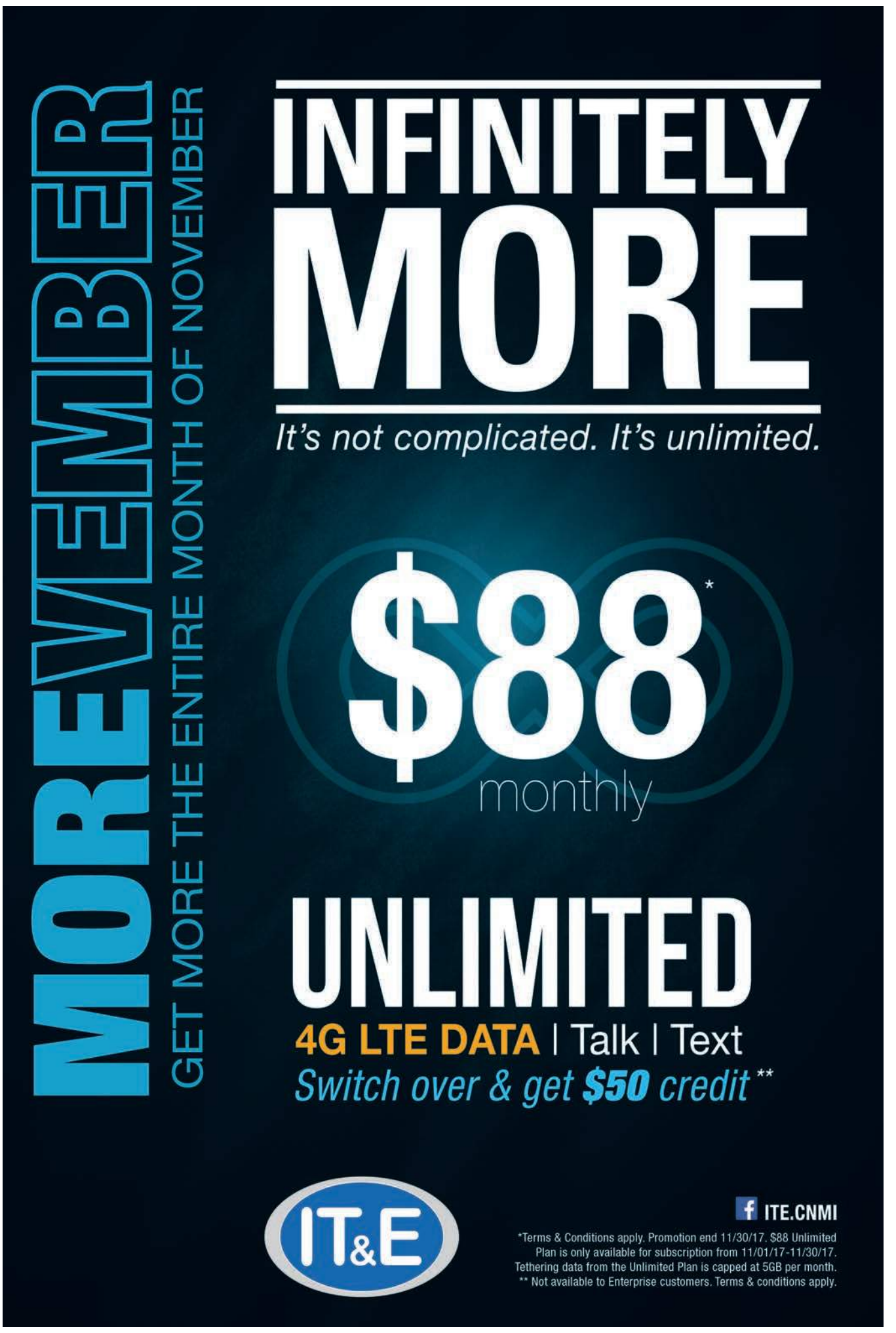
"My administration has been closely monitoring the progress of the House and Senate tax bills, particularly in whether changes to the code will help enhance the economy of the CNMI. I hope that the congressional office will work to ensure that federal policies supports law-abiding taxpayers here in the CNMI," said the administration statement. "My office, on several occasions, has provided information and support to [Sablan] on a federal payment for the issuance of the Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC to the CNMI, which remains the most proper policy to advocate for in tax reform discussions."

Press secretary Kevin Bautista separately said in a statement: "The EITC is a refundable tax credit that encourages people with low to moderate income to enter the labor force and reduce the need for social services.

"Federal programs, such as, the Nutrition Assistance Program, help many of our people below the poverty level in the CNMI afford basic necessities, but the income guidelines without the Earned Income Tax Credit do not incentivize recipients to take on higher paying work in our economy.

"This is why Gov. Torres brought the issue of the Earned Income Tax Credit to the 902 consultations last year as a mechanism to incentivize greater local workforce participation to meet the end of the transition period in 2019. A statutory change in Congress is needed in order to provide the CNMI with funding to implement the credit.

"Amending the apportionment of the EITC will lower the levels of poverty in the CNMI, enhance our local workforce, and help grow our economy. If we're going to be talking about federal tax policies, the EITC is the right thing to advocate for in the interest of our low to moderate income families." ***(PR)***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*Terms & Conditions apply. Promotion end 11/30/17. $88 Unlimited Plan is only available for subscription from 11/01/17-11/30/17. Tethering data from the Unlimited Plan is capped at 5GB per month.
** Not available to Enterprise customers. Terms & conditions apply.

E-Land executives, Public School System officials, principals, teachers, and students pose for a group photo at an opening ceremony for the Environmental Youth Alliance Program on Wednesday at the Kensington Hotel. The program promotes environmental conservation and environmental awareness and helps youths grow as global environmental leaders.

BEA CABRERA

E-Land, PSS strengthen partnership for environment

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

A year after the E-Land Youth Environmental Alliance Program was launched, the partnership between the South Korea conglomerate and the Public School System is focusing on encouraging students to act to preserve the environment.

The program had a ceremony commemorating its second year last Wednesday at Kensington Hotel in San Roque, attended by E-Land executives, PSS officers, school principals, teachers, and students.

The program aims to encourage environmental clubs in the grade and high school levels of PSS to come up with ways to help preserve and protect the environment by funding the projects and making sure that the students achieve their goals.

According to Jieun Ko, E-Land Corporate Social Responsibility manager, each environmental club went through documentation, interviews, and evaluations last week and the top 10 schools were selected to pursue environmental projects and plans.

"Last year E-land supported three environmental clubs from PSS. This year, we expanded the program to 10 environmental clubs and to non-public schools. Each club will get $500 every month starting today until next year to help them pursue their environmental projects," she said.

E-Land CEO and president Matthew Park said that student leaders play a crucial role in solving environment problems.

"There were many good projects proposed by each school such as beach cleaning or Adopt-a-Beach project, coral watch, recycling, tree planting, awareness campaign, and so forth.

"There is no doubt that these projects will bring us a real changes in both short- and long-term periods. I wish the students all the success in transforming their ideas into tangible outcomes that will make a positive difference to the people of the CNMI," said Park.

The program's participating schools are William S. Reyes, Koblerville, and Kagman elementary schools, Hopwood and Chacha Oceanview middle schools, Kagman, Saipan Southern, and Marianas (Conservation Plan Action Committee and My Wave) high schools, and Mount Carmel School.

Acting Education commissioner Glen Muña said the partnership with E-Land started a year ago and the company is looking at ways on how they can help PSS.

"It started with putting up bus stops and, from there, it expanded to community events. This shows the community that the children care about the environment and they care about the place that they live in," he said.

"I support the children and I hope everyone in the community supports their efforts as well. I look forward to more partnerships like this, not only with E-Land but also with other businesses," Muña added.

E-Land is a key partner in the CNMI's efforts to help protect the environment. They also help with the projects and programs of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

"We are living on Saipan and we are doing business here. One of the things why we are here is because we fell in love with the natural beauty of Saipan. With that, I feel we need to help conserve and protect the environment," Park said.

"E-Land will continue to support students' environmental activities," he added.

WHAT NEXT?

Derron Gerard Flores listens as the wife of his counsel, attorney Juan T. Lizama, talks to him while Lizama puts some documents into his car outside the U.S. District Court for the NMI Monday afternoon. The jury favored MUFG Union Bank in Flores' lawsuit to collect the $200,000 time certificate of deposit that his late father, Donald Flores, purchased from the bank in 1993.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

OAG says $635,187 that two Rota doctors are seeking is unlawful

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The $635,187 that two Rota physicians are seeking from the Rota Health Center and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for alleged services are unlawful, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

OAG Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons, counsel for RHC and CHCC, said that, at the time Dr. Francois Claassens and Dr. James Toskas entered their contracts with the government, the amount of leave available to them was governed by the Civil Service Commission's excepted service regulations.

Timmons made the argument in RHC's and CHCC's motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Claassens and Toskas that seeks payment for services in the total amount of $635,187.

The two doctors are suing RHC and CHCC in Superior Court for breach of contract and *quantum meruit*.

Quantum meruit determines the amount to be paid for services when no contract exists or when there is doubt as to the amount due for the work performed but done under circumstances when payment could be expected.

Claassens is demanding payment of $308,000 for all administrative leave, while Toskas is seeking payment of $327,187 for all administrative leave.

In RHC's and CHCC's motion to dismiss, Timmons said the regulations do not allow for administrative leave to be granted by department directors as part of an employee's contract.

He said the contract states that "administrative leave with pay is granted by the governor only in exceptional circumstances such as typhoons and state funerals."

Timmons said the contract further states that "administrative leave with pay may be granted by the employee's department director to an employee serving on government boards and commissions, provided the employee does not receive compensation from the boards and commissions."

Timmons said the leave to which the two doctors believe they are entitled is not permissible as annual leave because it was not approved by the director of the Office of Personnel Management.

Similarly, he said, it is not permissible because it exceeds the regulatory maximum—the amount of leave is not between four and eight hours.

Finally, Timmons said, this extra leave claimed is not permissible as administrative leave because it was not granted by the governor in exceptional circumstances, nor was it granted for service on a government board or commission.

"Because the benefits claimed by plaintiffs are illegal, plaintiffs cannot succeed under any legal theory," the government counsel said.

On the *quantum meruit* claim, Timmons said it is not available when a valid contract exists.

Timmons said that Claassens and Toskas had valid employment contracts with the Commonwealth and/or the CHCC.

He said Claassens and Toskas acknowledge that the RHC resident director did not have the authority to execute an employment contract or authorize administrative leave.

Timmons said because Commonwealth law did not allow the resident directors or the Rota mayor to bind the Commonwealth to the purported agreements, the doctors' claims must fail.

On the claim against RHC, Timmons said RHC is not a person, an entity, or even a department or agency of government and cannot be a party to the lawsuit.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 34th birthday to Augustine P. Castro, who is celebrating his special day today, Nov. 16, 2017! May your day be filled with joy, happiness, and good health! We love you! Greetings come from your entire family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Chinese cuisine at the Chairman M

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Saipan gourmands, prepare for a new flavor in town.

The newest restaurant on island, Chairman M, which features mostly the lush and bold cuisine of northern China, has opened inside the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

According to Lucy Guo, assistant vice president for food and beverage of Imperial Pacific International, Ltd., the restaurant is named after Mao Tse Tung, the founding father of the People's Republic of China.

"Chairman M serves northern China cuisine but we added a twist to make it different and memorable. Northern Chinese cuisine is known for its strong flavors, achieved by seasonings and herbs. Because it is cold in the northern part of China, the dishes are richer in meat and has garlic and scallions," she said.

The typical way of cooking northern Chinese dishes is by stewing, roasting, stir frying, or deep frying—the same cooking styles that can be expected of dishes at Chairman M.

"People can expect big flavors in big servings here in the restaurant because northern Chinese dishes are generally served in big portions," according to the restaurant's executive chef, Chen Hai Song.

Northern Chinese dishes are also known for their healthy and healing benefits because the ingredients used are nutritious, Guo said.

What makes Chairman M different is that it will be a double-feature restaurant, offering the Northern Chinese menu from 11am to 11pm daily and the Noodle Bar menu from 11pm to 11am. That means it will be open 24 hours a day.

Chef Tong Xin will be presiding over the sumptuous feast of traditional and authentic Northern Chinese cuisine. From the capital city of Beijing, Xin has 29 years of experience in authentic Northern Chinese cuisine and has worked at the award-winning "Made in China" restaurant of the five-star Grand Hyatt Beijing, which is known for its signature Peking duck. With Xin on board, Chairman M will introduce a new dimension to its Peking duck here on Saipan.

Meanwhile, the Noodle Bar menu will be prepared by executive chef Haisong Chen, who has 29 years of cooking experience. He has worked at the Golden Flower Restaurant at the Wynn Palace Cotai Resort in Macau, which is a 2-Michelin-star restaurant, and at the Imperial Treasure in Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.

According to Guo, their dishes cater to both VIP and medium-range market. "We have in mind the local market. In fact, the restaurant offers a 10-percent discount to residents. We also have dishes that cater to VIP guests."

The VIP specialties as well as chef Chen recommendations include Wagyu beef with special sauce, goose liver, and roasted duck, to name a few.

For drinks, Woodbridge red and white wines are available, as well as luxury French red wines. For beer lovers, enjoy their ice-cold draft Stella Artois. They also have luxury whiskeys such as Macallan M and Macallan No. 6 and popular Chinese liquor Moutai 50 Years, to name a few.

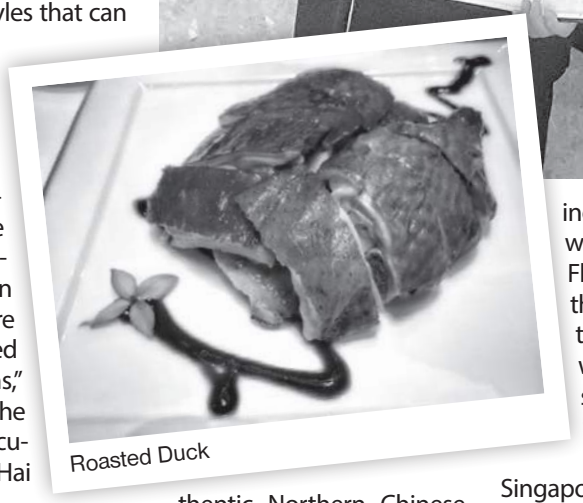
For tea lovers, Chairman M has an array of over 40 types of tea that have been selected to compliment Northern Chinese cuisine.

The restaurant's name is supposed to invoke luxury and this is evident in the opulent interior design, furniture, utensils and table presentation at Chairman M.

The restaurant can accommodate 92 people and it has four VIP rooms with big screens for entertainment or for presentations.

Chairman M executive chef Chen Hai Song and Lucy Guo, senior vice president for food & beverage of Imperial Pacific International Ltd., at the opening of Chairman M last Oct. 1 at the Imperial Pacific Resort.

BEA CABRERA



Roasted Duck

Wagyu Beef

Roasted Eel

Scallop Vermicelli

COTA highlighted in transit magazine for best practices

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority was recently featured in *Mass Transit* magazine's best practices section for professional development.

Mass Transit is the only magazine exclusively dedicated to public transportation in the United States. The publication focuses on public transportation leaders from around the country to showcase their best practices and give their firsthand accounts on addressing transportation needs for a given community. It provides industry professionals the information and advice they need for success.

COTA was highlighted in the magazine for its collaboration with the Department of Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu. The department serves the whole island of Oahu in Hawaii and operates The Bus, The Hand-Van, and the Honolulu Rail Transit.

Jon Y. Nouchi, deputy director of the Department of Transportation Services, said that collaboration with other transit agencies allows a greater sharing of successes and learning from setbacks.

"While content is always key in the conference setting, it is essential that transit agencies send forward-thinking individuals to experience the host cities they are staged in, to see what actually works on the street, and to validate new ideas ripe for implementation in their own spaces," Nouchi noted.

The learning exchange through meeting other transit agencies from other cities around the country is "a two-way street."

"Why should cities and agencies reinvent the proverbial wheel when collaboration can save everyone time and money, recognizing the value of best practices and lessons learned before proceeding down a project path? The city and county of Honolulu has recently collaborated with the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. While they are geographically closer to Asia than the United States, they are managed via the same Federal Transit Administration Region as Hawaii. Saipan is currently in the planning stages to bring much-needed fixed-route transit to their island. Looking at the similarities between our places, it is natural to share Honolulu's over 100 years of public transit experience with Saipan. We plan to welcome their teams to Honolulu and travel to Saipan to conduct peer reviews. Again, this natural networking and sharing through travel presents so much value to both places," he added.

Alfreda P. Camacho, the special assistant for Transportation, emphasized that collaborations with partner transit agencies creates more innovative ways to effectively address transportation needs in the CNMI.

"Collaborating with the Department of Transportation Services City and County of Honolulu-Hawaii with regards to the planning, development, and implementation of the fixed route system assures our community the dedication and commitment that COTA possesses in order to properly execute this system," Camacho said.

She noted that continual discussions with similar agencies like Honolulu's will lead to a better transportation system for the CNMI.

"Working through best practices with deputy director Nouchi and the commitment to the development of transportation professionals within COTA is this administration's priority in order for our current demand response service and forthcoming fixed route service to succeed," she added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that COTA is doing its best to better provide its existing services, while creating innovative ways to effectively bring a modernized transportation system to the CNMI.

"COTA is doing everything it can to make sure it continues to serve its riders and partner agencies. [Camacho] and her team have shown a lot of growth and continue to be open-minded to new ideas and best practices so they can provide better services for everyone. Access to transportation is the one of the most important factors in an individual's ability to escape poverty and seek out more economic opportunities like finding a job or attending a class. We will continue to make sure this vision of having a full-fledged transit system becomes a reality," Torres said.

For more information on COTA's article on *Mass Transit*, go to http://www.masstransitmag.com/article/12359184/best-practices-professional-development. ***(PR)***

CNMI REPRESENTATIVES IN DC

From left, former governor Juan N. Babauta, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and former Washington representative Edward Dlg. Pangelinan pose for a photo minutes before Sablan's press conference on Tuesday at his office in Susupe. ERWIN ENCINARES

Phan seeks acquittal, wants a new trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David Trung Quoc Phan wants to be acquitted of charges that he and two other co-defendants brought Bangladeshi men to Saipan on false promises of good-paying jobs and green cards in exchange for cash.

In the alternative, Phan wants a new trial.

Phan, though counsel Steven P. Pixley, asserted that the evidence offered by the U.S. government was not enough to convict him.

Last Oct. 18, a federal court jury found Phan guilty of two counts of mail fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

Pixley said the U.S. government's three witnesses had no evidence that Phan intended to hire these Bangladeshi workers, nor did the workers testify that they paid Phan any recruitment fee or that he had recruited them.

He said Phan never traveled to Bangladesh and that the U.S. government failed to present enough evidence that Phan participated in a scheme to defraud.

With respect to the conviction of three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, Pixley said these convictions involve Tazizul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, and Abu Bakkar Beg.

Pixley said this criminal offense requires the U.S. to present facts sufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt demonstrating the solicitation, recruitment or hiring of a person outside of the U.S. with the intent to defraud for the purpose of employment in the U.S.

Pixley said the U.S. government failed to present any competent evidence that Phan intended to defraud these three workers.

In fact, he said, the evidence showed that Phan provided jobs to these workers at TBK Auto Cares.

Pixley said it wasn't until after the three workers' arrival on Saipan on April 21, 2016, that Phan learned that they were unskilled and that they had lied about their qualifications.

These justify a new trial, Pixley said.

He said the verdict was against the weight of the evidence and the trial was permeated by false testimony of the alleged Bangladeshi "victims," making the trial fundamentally unfair, in violation of due process.

Each of the alleged "victims" lied to the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and submitted false documents, he said.

Phan's co-defendants Muksedur Rahman and Md. Rafiqul Islam, were also convicted. Rahman earlier filed the same motions.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour, who presided over the trial, set the sentencing for March 9, 2018.

In the U.S. government's opposition to Rahman's motions, assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto said there was enough evidence for the jury to convict Rahman.

Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter, were acquitted. Another defendant, Zeaur Rahman Dalu, already pleaded guilty.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free seminar on record keeping for farmers

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will be offering a free business seminar called "The Benefits of Record Keeping for Farmers with USDA Farm Service Agency" at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute on Dec. 4, 2017, from 5pm to 6:30pm. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbden.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on microloan with USDA-FSA

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will be offering a free business seminar called "The ABC's of Applying for a Microloan with USDA Farm Service Agency" at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute on Dec. 5, 2017, from 8am to 9:30pm. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

PTSA meeting for Kagman schools

Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 5pm in the ChaCha Oceanview Middle School cafeteria. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this meeting. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Holiday closures at AMP

American Memorial Park officials would like to inform the public that the Visitor Center will be closed in observance of the following federal holidays:

- Nov. 23, 2017: Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 25, 2017: Christmas Day
- Jan. 1, 2018: New Year's Day

On these days, the rest of the park will remain open. Park staff would like to encourage the public to explore the Visitor Center. With the exception of the holidays, the visitor center is open every day from 9am to 5pm.

For more information contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(PR)***

Military training at Orote Point, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla starting today, Nov. 16, until Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10am to 11:59pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting today

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next monthly support meeting of the Commonwealth Cancer Association today, Nov. 16, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's conference room. Guest speaker will be Phuong Luu, MD, director of Public Health Services, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Sales training for holidays today

The "Customer Service & Suggestive Selling for the Holidays" training seminar will be conducted today, Nov. 16, from 9am to 12pm at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315). Registration fee is $50 per person for Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

MVA: Beefing up marketing in Big 3 is priority

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The year is not over yet but the Marianas Visitors Authority is already calling it a banner year for Marianas tourism and is looking at the next year to solidify its hold on what it calls the Big 3—the source markets of South Korea, China, and Japan.

During last Thursday's MVA general membership meeting at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said, "We are very satisfied with how our marketing plans have played from the Big 3 in 2017."

The CNMI's tourism sector grew 30 percent this year compared to last year, "which is a tremendous accomplishment because it is the fourth highest year in Marianas tourism history," he said.

Concepcion said that fiscal year 2017 was a banner year for the Marianas, with 653,150 total visitor arrivals.

"I think a little more growth like 5 to 10 percent is stable and sustainable," he added.

According to Concepcion, different marketing tools are being maximized to capture more travelers from Korea, China, and Japan.

"Each market is different, each market has its own do's and don'ts, positives, and negatives. So here at MVA headquarters, our guidance and direction to our marketing arm in the three source countries is always there.

"We are rolling out marketing plans for [fiscal year] 2018. We are going to continue on rebranding in Japan to boost the Japanese numbers who come to the Marianas, the China market is still a growing market and the potential there is massive. The Korean market has been our consistent visitors mostly throughout the year and marketing efforts definitely play an important part in that," said Concepcion.

MVA board chair Gloria Cavanagh said the efforts done externally to promote the Marianas will continue to flourish, but also emphasized that partnership with the Legislature is invaluable.

"We have developed greater communication with the Legislature over the decade. One great example is MVA's commencement of the Tour Guide Certification Program last month. This was made possible when the Legislature enacted Public Law 18-58 and lately improved it by revising provisions for enforcement."

"As a result, over 200 tour guides and 42 tour operators have already signed up for the program. Our first batch of official Marianas guides just took their final exams last Friday (Nov. 3). Currently, there are additional 75 enrollees in 20 hours of training at Northern Marianas College and 100 more waiting on the list. This step ensures our visitors have a safe, informative, and enjoyable visit in the Marianas," she added.

Whatever MVA has done in terms of marketing the Marianas in 2017, MVA hopes to double in 2018.

"We have a strong marketing arm that extends the MVA's mission and vision on how we want the world to see the Marianas. We will continue to saturate every opportunity so it will translate to more visitors to the Marianas," Concepcion said.

MCDONALD'S TRAINING

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to all department managers for completing the DM capstone course held in Guam by Suzy Rehfeldt, front row left, training lead of McDonald's Hawaii. Front row, from left, Rehfeldt, Justice Andon, Ruthzel Perez, Adelaida Apilado, Giselle Achas, Angelica Darlucio, Amy Almoite, Jennifer Abaya, Jackylyn Recto, Divine Ocampo, and McDonald's Saipan and Guam owner/president Jose Ayuyu. Second row, from left, Mersina Quintanilla, Catherine Calma, Socrates Repancol, Marvin Cabuhat, QS&C director Pacifico Martir, Carmina Cayetano, Ferry Cauilan, Kisina Hossain, and William Tecson. Back row, McDonald's owner/vice president Marcia Ayuyu and training coordinator Majellyn Calceta.

Fees waived for NMC Cash for College participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's upcoming "Cash for College" workshop will qualify to have their spring 2018 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. That represents a savings of up to $75.

The free Cash for College workshop will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, at the NMC As Terlaje campus in Building A. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am to 12pm.

The aim of the workshop is to assist students and their parents in maximizing scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education.

Cash for College workshops are open to new and ongoing students, as well as members in the community. Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program, the CNMI Scholarship, the TEACH Grant and more.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), copy of 2015 and 2016 1040, copy of 2015 and 2016 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport or a voter registration card.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at (670) 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Chamber to host career exploration for students

The Education Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, in coordination with private companies, will be hosting the "2017 Career Exploration Day" on Dec. 6, a Wednesday. High school juniors and seniors have been invited to register for this event.

Registered students will choose a field of business they are hoping to learn more about and will be paired with a participating Chamber business. This is a unique opportunity that will give students a hands-on experience in the workplace with a chance to "shadow" a private-sector business leader for a half-day. The Chamber hopes that this experience will help students decide which field of work or study they would like to pursue in the future.

Students will be recognized at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall during the Chamber's meeting at 12pm of Dec. 6.

Interested students will need the following: student application, high school permission form, and student/parental consent form. Hard copies can be picked up from the Chamber office on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315 or downloaded from the Chamber website: www.saipanchamber.com. Forms may be submitted via email or to Chamber office. Forms are due by Friday, Nov. 17, at 5pm. For more information, call (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the 2016 Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Career Exploration Day have their picture taken at the end of the program.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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ROY MOORE ALLEGATIONS ARE DISTURBING AND HE SHOULD DROP OUT OF THE ALABAMA SENATE RACE*
*IF TRUE
DUCKING FOR COVER
KIRK
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Email: kirk@theblade.com

EDITORIAL

Are we still the greatest nation if we can't address mass shootings?

Does it make sense to continue calling the United States the greatest nation in the world when we can't even have a sensible discussion about, let alone solve, one of the most vexing issues facing us?

Things have gotten so bad that after yet another mass shooting—this time ending in the death of 26 people, with 20 others injured—and before the blood dried on the pews of that Texas church, a predictable, mind-numbing debate erupted. There were those who sent out the typical "thoughts and prayers" tweets. There were those who immediately responded that thoughts and prayers are not enough. There were those saying, once again, that it was too soon to talk about policy, though a week earlier they were quick to talk immigration laws when an immigrant who had pledged allegiance to ISIS used a truck as a battering ram in New York, killing eight people.

And there was the inevitable back-and-forth about whether more, or better, gun control measures or more effectively dealing with mental illness was the key to solving a problem no other industrialized nation in the world must contend with. (The U.S. Air Force apparently failed to report the shooter's past through the proper channels, which allowed him to clear background checks he otherwise would not have.)

It is certainly no mark of greatness to be the worst in the world when it comes to protecting our citizens from gun violence, when more than 30,000 are killed every year through homicides, suicides and accidental shootings. We have more than 300 million guns in the hands of everyday Americans—a rate unmatched anywhere else on Earth—and in the face of yet another mass shooting, the Texas attorney general wondered why we don't have even more guns in churches, just as a Republican congressman wanted more guns in Congress after a shooting at a congressional softball practice.

Now three of the top five mass shootings in modern America have occurred over the past 18 months. Such shootings have become so common that the Columbine massacre, which shocked the nation in 1999 and led to massive changes in schools, is no longer ranked in the top 10. We were momentarily moved by a Las Vegas shooting that killed 59 people and injured several hundred and spoke, briefly, about limiting access, not to high-powered guns, but kits that could modify them into automatic weapons. We couldn't even get that done, just as we couldn't when scores of elementary kids were killed in Sandy Hook and polls showed that 90 percent of the public was in favor of tighter background checks.

A country that can't keep its residents safe from a plague that doesn't affect any other industrialized nation—and can't even commit to trying until the problem is solved—should not be patting itself on the back about its greatness.

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Hey, Facebook, some guy stole my life!

By SCOTT MAXWELL
Orlando Sentinel

Recently, I found myself looking at something very strange—a Facebook page full of pictures of myself.

This might not have been strange had I been looking at my own Facebook page.

But I wasn't. I was looking at the page of someone allegedly named "Brett Colin."

Brett and I had a lot in common. We had taken the same vacations. We had the same children. We even had the exact same face. (Poor Brett.)

I thought it was I who rode a horse to the top of mountain in North Carolina several years ago. No, apparently that was Brett.

I thought I took my son to a Bucs game where my son beamed after Mason Foster gave him his receiver's glove. Apparently that was Brett, too.

It was pretty clear someone had lifted my personal information and photos to create a fake Facebook page. (I learned about the page after someone Brett was trying to con let me know. Brett had left some of the "tags" with my real name on a few of the photos.)

So I contacted Facebook and told them about the scam—which was when my weird story got weirder.

Facebook quickly let me know it understood the problem: "You reported someone for pretending to be you."

But Facebook also said that was fine with them.

Um ... what?

Specifically, Facebook responded that they had investigated the matter and concluded that Brett's page—where he was pretending to be me—"doesn't go against our Community Standards."

Well, then your standards blow, Facebook.

I ultimately got the page removed, and I'll share how. But the greater message here is that you can't trust anything to remain private.

Anything.

"I always tell people that anything you put on social media should be something you would be comfortable showing the whole world."

Those are the words of Joan Goodchild, an expert in social-media security with Information Security Media Group.

Joan checked out my situation and said the fake page was a pretty clear example of "catfishing."

That's when someone creates a fake page to try to lure someone in—often under the auspices of romance, but ultimately to take them for money.

The key giveaway in my case was that, while Brett lifted lots of things directly from my Facebook profile—like his journalism degree (what were you thinking, Brett?) and graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Go, Heels!)—he changed one key thing. Under marital status, it said: "Divorced."

Now, some days, my wife might be tempted. But we are, in fact, together and quite happy. Still, Brett had removed any evidence of my/his wife from all the pictures.

Why? "He's catfishing," Goodchild explained, "portraying himself as a divorced, single dad interested in having a relationship. But then, after a while, he'll start saying: 'I need money to support my son.'"

I do need money to support my son. He's 15 and eats like a hippo. But I use Publix BOGOs to deal with that problem. Not Facebook.

One of the key things I'd done wrong was not place private settings on all my photos to keep strangers from seeing them. Actually, I had always tried to do so. But Goodchild said that, in Facebook's earlier days, it often reset users' settings back to public-sharing status when it updated its platform. Not cool, Facebook.

Also not cool was the social-media giant's response to my problem—you know, when they said the problem wasn't actually a problem. (No wonder the Russians got in so easily.)

A Facebook spokesman later admitted they'd messed up. He said a human being incorrectly handled my complaint, but said the company's "automated" system later caught it. (This is why droids will be doing all of our jobs in a few years.)

How did the "automated" system catch it? Well, after Facebook told me they were cool with some fraudster using my info, I asked others to report the fake page as well. Apparently, volume works.

Still, Goodchild said there are basic things everyone should do.

Regularly check your privacy settings. Use the "View as public" feature so you can see what strangers see. And use the "limit past posts" feature to hide everything you've ever posted in the past.

But more importantly, go back to the original point: Don't assume anything you "share" with friends will stay there.

I never post anything I'm not prepared for the whole world to see. I increasingly believe there are no secrets anymore. But we don't have to make it easy for scammers.

So this was a good reminder.

Thanks, Brett.

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The T-word: When is an attack terrorism?

By MAX ABRAHMS
Los Angeles Times

Max Abrahms is a professor of political science at Northeastern University and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

When a gunman opened fire at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, the atrocity called to mind the 2015 shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. Despite apparent similarities, these violent incidents were described quite differently. The Associated Press reported that the Sutherland Springs attacker, who killed 26, "doesn't appear to be linked to organized terrorist groups." By contrast, the Atlantic declared that the Charleston attack, in which nine people were killed, was "terrorism." When an assailant shot to death 49 people last year at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, CNN called the massacre "the worst incident of domestic terrorism since 9/11." Last month, when a shooter killed 58 people at a music festival on the Las Vegas Strip, news outlets described him as a "granddad," a "gambler" and a "former accountant"—but not as a terrorist. On Halloween, when a driver rammed a truck into a crowd of pedestrians and bicyclists in Lower Manhattan, killing eight, he was identified as a "terror suspect."

The British ambassador to the United Nations, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, asserted after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks: "Increasingly, questions are being raised about the problem of the definition of a terrorist. Let us be wise and focused about this: Terrorism is terrorism. What looks, smells and kills like terrorism is terrorism." Use of the T-word is arguably straightforward for some tragedies—if, for instance, the perpetrators openly declare their allegiance to the Islamic State. But for a growing number of people, terrorism may seem like the opposite of pornography: They don't know it when they see it.

The terrorism scholar Alex Schmid spent four years researching a definition of terrorism. In the first line of the second edition of his book, he concludes that the "search for an adequate definition is still on." Indeed, there are more than 100 definitions of terrorism, according to the historian Walter Laqueur.

This lack of consensus isn't surprising when you consider that governments around the world apply the T-word instrumentally to isolate and discredit their enemies at home and abroad.

In authoritarian countries, such as Egypt and China, even peaceful dissidents risk being called terrorists. The leaders of democracies are also incentivized to use the T-word after an attack, as studies have found that terrorism tends to induce a rally-round-the-flag effect, strengthening the hand of the executive. Given its interests in combating Salafists and Zionists, Iran regards Hezbollah as a resistance group whereas the United States, Israel and some European capitals view the "Party of God" as terrorists.

Sometimes governments revoke the terrorism label when geopolitical circumstances change. Historically, the United States regarded the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, as a terrorist group given its bloody attacks in Turkey for Kurdish independence. But when the United States came to rely on the Syrian Democratic Forces as anti-Islamic State ground troops in Syria, Washington refrained from calling them the T-word, despite their reported PKK ties.

Compared to governments, academics have more agreement and consistency in their terrorist coding. Although definitional consensus remains elusive, political scientists increasingly employ the T-word when three criteria are met.

At least in theory, a violent act is deemed terrorism when it's perpetrated by a non-state actor against a civilian target for a political goal. That means a lone wolf or larger organization using violence rather than a proper army; a soft target like a church, mosque, synagogue or school rather than a tank or military base; in pursuit of a cause like national self-determination, white supremacy, a caliphate or Communist revolution rather than because of mental health problems, a personal dispute or selfish reasons such as greed.

This is a neat coding scheme until you try to apply it. For starters, violent organizations often act as proxies for governments—just ask the Taliban. Recently, I gave a terrorism presentation in New Delhi. The audience confessed that they didn't understand my definition of terrorism because in their minds it's synonymous with Pakistan.

And some targets are only quasi-civilian, like the King David Hotel in Jerusalem that the Irgun struck in July 1946 to end the British occupation. Disguised as hotel waiters, Irgun operatives planted a bomb in the basement of the hotel, killing 91 people, mostly civilians: 41 Arabs, 28 Britons, 17 Jews, as well as two Armenians, a Russian, an Egyptian and a Greek national. The dead included hotel employees and typists, canteen workers and five members of the public who happened to be in the hotel or on the street when the bomb detonated. But this hotel wasn't a normal hotel. It served as the headquarters for the British Armed Forces in Palestine. By all accounts the intent wasn't to harm civilians. As Bruce Hoffman notes in his book on the Irgun, "The attack's target ... was neither the hotel itself nor the persons working or staying in it, but the government and military offices located there."

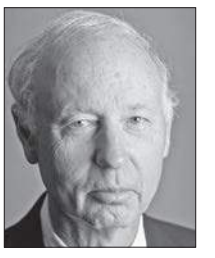
More recently, on the afternoon of May 22, 2013, a British man named Lee Rigby was going for a walk on Wellington Street when he was stabbed to death by a pair of self-described jihadists. Although off-duty, wearing a hoodie and clearly a non-combatant, Rigby was targeted for being a machine-gunner in the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers en route to the barracks.

But perhaps the trickiest criterion is motive. Psychologists have found that we often don't understand our own behavior, never mind the behavior of others. Not even the best scholars have direct access into the minds of terrorists. Although all terrorist groups have a political platform, that doesn't mean members are fighting to achieve them. On the contrary, research finds that most people join terrorist groups not to attain their official goals, but for the social solidarity associated with a tight-knit group.

Oftentimes, we don't even know which group committed the attack. Since 1970, the modal terrorist attack has gone unclaimed. Although Islamic State claims its attacks (and sometimes those of others), its members are typically clueless about religion and politics, a function of the group having zero admissions standards. Was the Pulse shooter really an Islamic State devotee or was he mentally disturbed? In all likelihood, he was both. Perhaps you have to be mentally disturbed to think that shooting innocent people at a nightclub will lead to a caliphate.

It's no wonder we're having a tough time fighting terrorists when there's still so much confusion over who they are.

Biden leaves door open for another run at president



By JULES WITCOVER
Tribune News Service

Jules Witcover's latest book is The American Vice Presidency: From Irrelevance to Power*, published by Smithsonian Books. You can respond to this column at juleswitcover@comcast.net.*

WASHINGTON—With a leaderless Democratic Party still trying to pick up the pieces from its shocking defeat at Donald Trump's hands in 2016, it is looking to next year's congressional elections for a comeback as a prelude to the next presidential election.

But with Barack Obama in retirement and Hillary Clinton emphatically sidelined, there is no frontrunner in the party establishment. It's not totally surprising therefore that former Vice President Joe Biden has said that while he's not planning to run again, "I'm not closing the door" either.

He also observed, "I'm a great respecter of fate." It's for good reason, considering how he put his life back together 45 years ago, days after being elected to the Senate, when he lost his young wife and infant daughter, and their two sons were seriously injured in a horrible car accident.

He eventually remarried, rebuilt his family and served six terms there. After losing two presidential bids and surviving two brain aneurysms along the way, he spent eight productive and popular years as President Obama's right-hand man.

On Monday's NBC "Today" show, Biden asked: "But who knows what the situation is going to be a year-and-a-half from now? I don't have any idea." He was quick to add that his age of 74 "was a legitimate issue to raise," that "people have a right to ask about your age, your health," and "if anyone were to run for president, you should fully disclose your medical records."

So that's where he's leaving the matter for now, and many voters no doubt would be put off by those issues. While he has become an icon in his party as Mr. Blue Collar Democrat, Biden's reputation for having a loose tongue has also often enabled Republicans to cast him as a comic character. This is despite having chaired the Senate Judiciary and Foreign Relations Committees before becoming the presidential stand-in for two terms.

Indeed, it can be argued that Biden is uniquely qualified by his political resume over 45 years in the Senate and then in the White House to serve in the presidency, while being a target for repeated GOP barbs.

He has openly acknowledged that he still wants to be president but says he has no regrets that he didn't run in 2016. He says he believes he made the decision as best for his family as it grieved in 2015 for the death of his older son, Beau, of brain cancer.

One of Joe Biden's major undertakings in his last years as vice president, and now, has been committing himself to research for an eventual cure. He and his wife, Jill, also head a family foundation devoted to advancing community colleges and ending domestic violence against women. He also leads a new center at the University of Pennsylvania focused on diplomacy and global engagement.

Through most of American history, vice presidents served with little significance and often were the brunt of lame jokes. Exceptions were Theodore Roosevelt, through the strength of his overwhelming energy and personality, and later Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, the beloved "Veep," a widower who charmed the country by marrying a socialite widow 34 years younger.

In recent times, however, vice presidents have been given stronger roles by their presidents. Biden's predecessor in the office, Dick Cheney, came to be considered the strongest vice president up to that time, but he was highly secretive and controversial, and sometimes was seen a rival for power to his president, George W. Bush.

Biden, on the other hand, was the most visibly engaged vice president of all, and Obama made a point of having at his side on most public occasions. At the funeral of Beau Biden at a Catholic cathedral in Wilmington, the president introduced himself as a member of the Biden family, and as his vice president's "brother" in a rare close relationship.

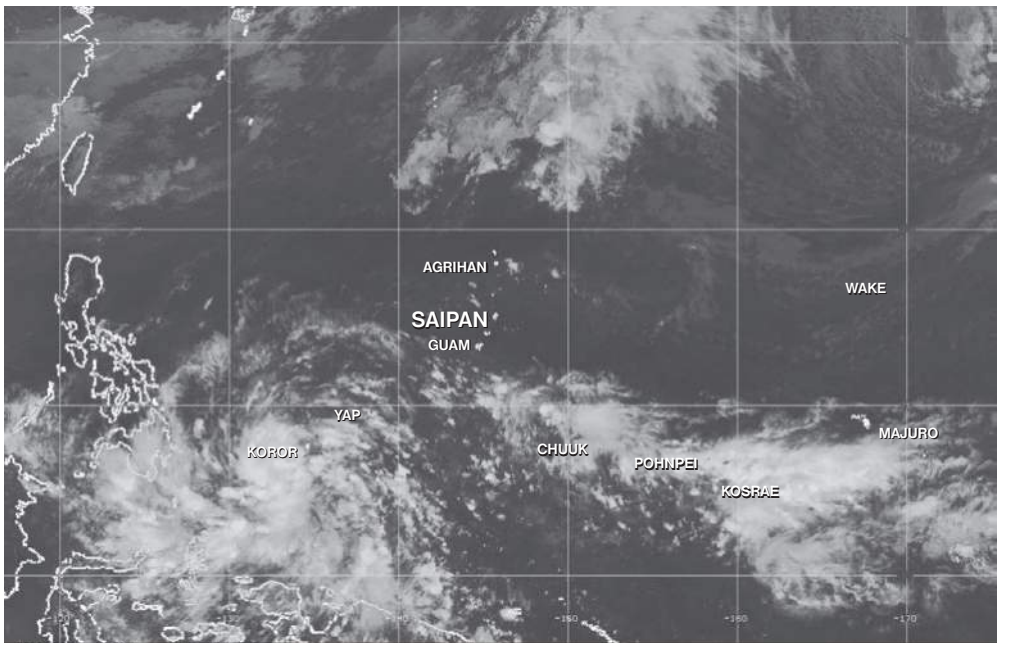
It is thus understandable that Joe Biden would still have strong feelings for filling the shoes, and the obligations, of the president he served for two momentous terms, and with more engagement and responsibility than many, or even any, of his vice presidential predecessors.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:32 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A band of convergence to the north of a weak trade-wind disturbance moving through to the south of Guam brought scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to Tinian and Saipan waters this morning. Expect showers to gradually diminish through the day as the convergence weakens, with a slight risk of thunderstorms continuing across the Marianas through tonight. On Friday, dry conditions will return to the islands with partly cloudy skies and isolated showers expected into next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	70° / 57°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	43° / 23°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Sunny	81° / 71°
London	Cloudy	55° / 43°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	72° / 59°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Miami	Showers	79° / 70°
New York	Showers	50° / 46°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 39°
Busan	Showers	61° / 36°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	64° / 45°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	69° / 45°
San Francisco	Showers	58° / 46°
Seoul	Rain	50° / 23°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	56° / 36°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:23 AM	LOW TIDE	0.20
6:33 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
12:17 PM	LOW TIDE	0.74
6:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.95

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:12 am	4:21 pm	-
Friday	5:02 am	5:02 pm	-
Saturday	5:51 am	5:43 pm	-
Sunday	6:41 am	6:26 pm	-
Monday	7:31 am	7:11 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Senate GOP intent on scrapping health mandate in tax bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans are intent on scrapping the Affordable Care Act's requirement that Americans get health insurance, targeting a repeal of the individual mandate to help finance deep tax cuts in their tax overhaul.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Finance Committee, confirmed late Tuesday he was revising the bill to include repeal of the insurance mandate "to help provide additional relief to low- and middle-income families."

The surprise renewal of the failed effort to scrap the law's mandate came a day after President Donald Trump renewed pressure on GOP lawmakers to include the repeal in their tax legislation. It has sharp political stakes for Trump, who lacks a major legislative achievement after nearly 10 months in office.

The move by Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee upended the debate over the tax measure just as it was inching closer to passage following months of fine-tuning and compromise. It turned the debate into an angry partisan referendum on health care and President Barack Obama's signature law.

AP

In this Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017 photo, health care navigator Nancy Le talks with Michael Carter during a Community Council Affordable Care Act outreach in Dallas, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017.

Republican efforts to dismantle the law collapsed this past summer as moderate Republicans joined with Democrats in rejecting the repeal — a bitter disappointment for Trump, who lashed out at the Senate GOP for failing. Adding the repeal of the mandate to the tax measure would combine two of Trump's legislative priorities.

Beyond Trump's prodding, the repeal move also was dictated by the Republicans' need to find revenue sources for the massive tax-cut bill, which calls for steep reductions in the corporate tax rate and elimination of some popular tax breaks.

"We are optimistic that inserting the individual mandate repeal would be helpful; that's obviously the view of the Senate Finance Committee Republicans," Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters.

The "Obamacare" mandate requires most people to buy health insurance coverage or face a fine. Without being forced to get coverage, fewer people would sign up for Medicaid or buy federally subsidized private insurance. Targeting the mandate in the tax legislation would save an estimated $338 billion over a decade, which could be used to help pay for the deep cuts.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated repealing the requirement that people buy health coverage would mean 4 million additional uninsured people by 2019 and 13 million more by 2027.

It "will cause millions to lose their health care and millions more to lose their premiums," Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the senior Democrat on the Finance Committee, angrily insisted when the panel reconvened to work on the tax bill and word came of the Republicans' move on the mandate.

Feeling ambushed without advance notice, minority Democrats exploded in anger.

The completed House tax bill, pointed toward a vote in that chamber Thursday, does not currently include repeal of the health insurance mandate. Trump plans an in-person appeal to House Republicans before the vote.

To win over moderate Senate Republicans to the tax legislation, the Senate may take up at the same time a bipartisan compromise to shore up health care subsidies, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., indicated Tuesday. Thune is a member of the Finance panel.

Hatch's revised version also doubles the child tax credit to $2,000 from the current $1,000 — a change that presidential daughter Ivanka Trump has pushed for. The credit would rise to $1,600 under the House bill.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

2 airlines drop hot food from LAX caterer hit by listeria

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Delta Air Lines and Virgin Australia have stopped serving hot meals from Gate Gourmet at Los Angeles International Airport after listeria was found in the caterer's local kitchen. Virgin Australia is giving passengers vouchers for food before their LAX flights and says that onboard food won't be up to normal standards while it looks for other catering arrangements. Delta says it still gets cheese and fruit plates and wraps that are prepared in another part of the LAX Gate Gourmet facility but is getting hot meals from another Gate Gourmet facility in California. Delta spokeswoman Catherine Sirna said Tuesday the airline temporarily changed caterers so Gate Gourmet can be more aggressive in improving food safety. American Airlines suspended service from Gate Gourmet at LAX two weeks ago. Gate Gourmet spokeswoman Catherine Nugent says the listeria was not found on food-contact surfaces. She says the company launched a cleaning program and the LAX kitchen meets all local and federal food-safety regulations.The federal government says about 1,600 people get sick from listeria each year. The bacteria can cause dangerous complications for pregnant women, including miscarriages and stillbirths.

Indonesia police say 1 officer killed in Papua mine attack

JAYAPURA, Indonesia (AP)—Gunmen shot and killed an Indonesian police officer Wednesday in the latest suspected attack by separatists near a giant gold and copper mine in easternmost Papua. Another officer was wounded in the attack on a patrol near the mine owned by Phoenix, Arizona-based Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., said Papua police spokesman Ahmad Musthofa Kamal. Tensions in the region have flared in the past month. Members of the National Liberation Army of West Papua have declared an area near the mine a battlefield with Indonesian security forces and last week stationed fighters in two villages. One paramilitary police officer was killed and six others wounded in attacks last month. A low-level insurgency for independence has simmered in Papua since it was transferred from Dutch to Indonesian rule in 1963. The region, which makes up the western half of the island of New Guinea, was incorporated into Indonesia in 1969 following a U.N.-sponsored ballot of tribal leaders that has since been dismissed as a sham.

Is gun-maker liable for Newtown? Court takes up the case

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Newtown school shooter Adam Lanza heard the message loud and clear when gun-maker Remington Arms marketed an AR-15-style rifle as an overpowering weapon favored by elite military forces, a lawyer for relatives of some victims of the massacre told the Connecticut Supreme Court on Tuesday.

Lanza, who killed 20 first-graders and six educators with a Bushmaster XM15-E2S on Dec. 14, 2012, was obsessed with violent video games and idolized the Army Rangers, attorney Joshua Koskoff said.

Koskoff asked the high court to reinstate a wrongful death lawsuit against Madison, North Carolina-based Remington. He said the Bushmaster rifle and other AR-15-style firearms were designed as military killing machines and are too dangerous for the public, but Remington glorified them and marketed them to a younger demographic that included the 20-year-old Lanza.

"Adam Lanza heard the message," Koskoff told the justices, whose decision isn't expected for several months. "They marketed the weapon for exactly what it was. They used images of soldiers in combat. They used slogans invoking battle and high-pressure missions.

"Remington may never have known Adam Lanza, but they had been courting him for years," he said.

Military-style rifles have been used in many other mass shootings, including in Las Vegas last month and a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, earlier this month. They also were used in the Columbine High School and Aurora movie theater shootings in Colorado.

The Connecticut case is being watched by gun rights supporters and gun control advocates across the country as one that could affect other cases accusing gun-makers of being responsible for mass shootings. Several groups, including the National Rifle Association and emergency room doctors, submitted briefs to the court.

At issue is a 2005 federal law that exempts gun-makers from liability when their products are used in crimes and two exceptions to the law. A lower Connecticut court dismissed the lawsuit in 2015, citing the federal law named the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. That led to the Supreme Court appeal.

One exception allows lawsuits alleging "negligent entrustment": when companies provide people with products the companies know, or should know, could be dangerous. The other allows lawsuits alleging manufacturers knowingly violated a state or federal law that applies to the sale or marketing of firearms.

Other courts have cited the law in rejecting lawsuits against gun-makers and dealers in some high-profile shooting attacks, including the Colorado movie theater shooting and the Washington, D.C., sniper shootings.

The plaintiffs in the Newtown case—a survivor and relatives of nine people killed—sued Remington in 2015, citing the negligent entrustment exception and claiming the company violated a Connecticut law against unfair sales and marketing practices.

Lanza's mother, Nancy Lanza, legally bought the rifle and often went to the shooting range with her son, who had troubling mental health issues, authorities have said. Adam Lanza fatally shot his mother at their Newtown home before going to Sandy Hook Elementary School, where he killed himself as police arrived.

James Vogts, a lawyer for Remington, told the court the Bushmaster rifle is a legal firearm used by millions of people for hunting, self-defense and target shooting. He said the lawsuit isn't allowed under the federal law.

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Nation

Washington GOP boosts pressure on Alabama party on Moore

WASHINGTON (AP)—Washington Republicans tightened pressure Tuesday on Alabama's GOP to keep a defiant Roy Moore from being elected to the Senate next month, with many voicing hope that President Donald Trump could use his clout to resolve a problem that Republicans say leaves them with no easy options.

With Alabama Republicans reluctant to block Moore and enrage his legions of loyal conservative supporters, national GOP leaders were turning to Trump as their best chance of somehow turning the tide. Two women by name have said Moore molested them in the 1970s when one was 14 and the other 16 and he was a local district attorney, and three others said he pursued romantic relationships with them around the same time.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, in all-out warfare with Moore, said there'd be conversations about the anti-establishment firebrand after Trump returns Tuesday night from Asia. He said he'd already spoken about Moore to the president, Vice President Mike Pence and White House chief of staff John Kelly.

Moore

"He's obviously not fit to be in the United States Senate and we've looked at all the options to try to prevent that from happening," said McConnell, who Monday said he believed Moore's accusers. "This close to election, it's a complicated matter.'"

Maintaining his political brand as an unrepentant outsider, Moore again denied abusing the women in an email that reminded voters of their loyalty to him: "He's the same man you've always known him to be." It added, "On to victory!"

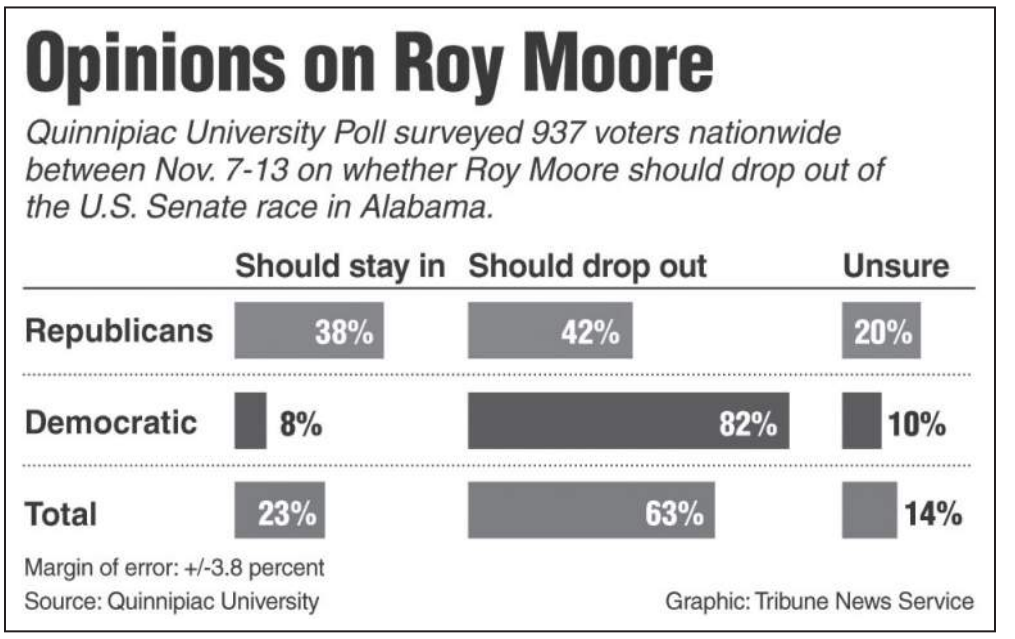
At the God Save America Conference later Tuesday in Jackson, Alabama, Moore said there is a "spiritual battle" going on in American politics.

"Why do you think they're giving me this trouble?" he asked the Baptist church audience. "Why do you think I'm being harassed in the media and people (are) pushing for an allegation in the last 28 days of the election?"

Twice removed from his post as state Supreme Court chief Justice, Moore's candidacy in the Dec. 12 special election confronts Republicans with two damaging potential outcomes. A victory saddles GOP senators with a colleague accused of abusing and harassing teen-agers, a troubling liability heading into next year's congressional elections, while an upset victory by Democrat Doug Jones would slice the already narrow GOP Senate majority to an unwieldy 51-49.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions told Congress he has "no reason to doubt" the women. Sessions, a former Alabama senator and still one of the GOP's most influential voices in the state, didn't rule out a Justice Department probe of the allegations, telling the House Judiciary Committee, "We will evaluate every case as to whether or not it should be investigated."

The national Republican Party ended a fundraising arrangement with Moore's campaign, Federal Election Commission documents showed. And House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., joined the pile of congressional Republicans saying Moore should drop out, saying, "If he cares about the values and people he claims to care about, then he should step aside."



Two Washington Republicans, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe private conversations, said they didn't know what Trump would do, but said the White House shares McConnell's concerns about Moore. While few think Trump could persuade Moore to step aside, several are hoping he can convince the Alabama state party to take some action.

At a forum Tuesday organized by The Wall Street Journal, McConnell said Trump is discussing what to do in the Alabama race "in great detail."

Despite the building pressure from national Republicans, state GOP office holders have taken a measured response.

It's already too late to remove his name from the ballot. That leaves the state party with limited options.

Police hunt killer after 4th slaying in Tampa neighborhood

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Police and federal agents with rifles checked car trunks, banged on doors and gathered forensic evidence in a Tampa neighborhood Tuesday as they hunted for the killer believed responsible for gunning down four people for no apparent reason in just over a month.

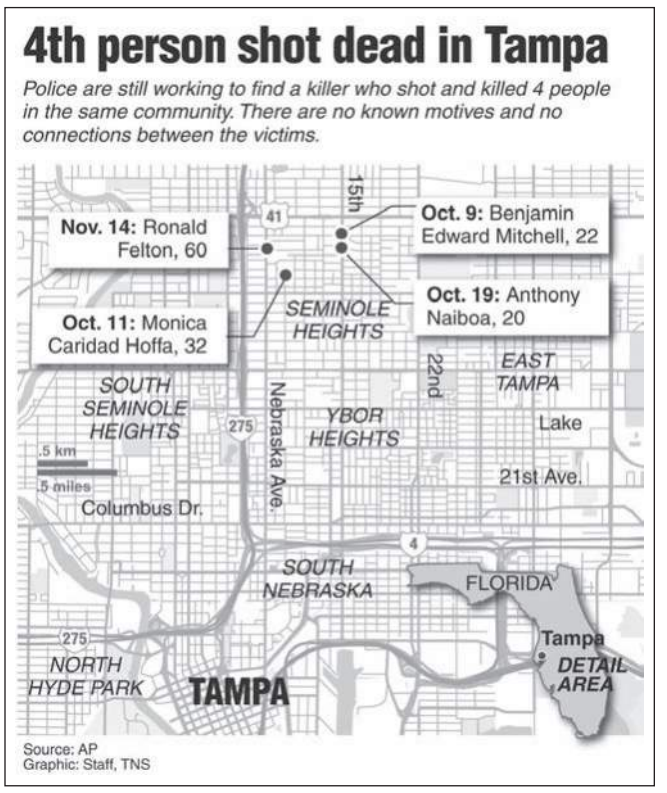
The normally quiet, working-class Seminole Heights section of bungalows and palm trees was sealed off with yellow crime-scene tape after the latest killing in the neighborhood—that of a 60-year-old man who was shot from behind as he crossed a street shortly after 5 a.m.

Interim Tampa Police Chief Brian Dugan said it is extremely possible that the killer—or killers—live in the neighborhood.

"Whoever is doing it, they're familiar with the neighborhood and they're able to vanish very quickly," Dugan said.

Residents and police have been on edge since Oct. 9, when 22-year-old Benjamin Mitchell was shot to death. Two days later, 32-year-old Monica Hoffa, was slain. And on Oct. 19, Anthony Naiboa, 20, was killed after taking the wrong bus home from his new job.

On Tuesday, Ronald Felton, an unemployed construction worker who volunteered at a food bank, was gunned down.



Police cars with flashing lights sat at dozens of intersections, and one major thoroughfare was entirely shut down for much of the day. Law enforcement took over the parking lot at a Baptist church, and a federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives bus was parked at the makeshift command center. Law officers questioned people and took down cell numbers.

"This was a very decent neighborhood until the last couple of months," sighed Sherry Street, 50, a cook who has lived in the area for seven years. "Up until recently I used to accidentally fall asleep with the door unlocked."

Street said she has stopped walking to the store, taking the bus or sitting outside to smoke at night. Her friends would often stop by and hang out on her porch to talk, but "now they're like, 'I'm not coming to see you.'"

Her neighbors have also changed their routines. Gone were the Halloween decorations of years past. Gone are the dog walkers. And the young woman with the beautiful redheaded twin girls—Street hasn't seen them in weeks.

"At 7 o'clock you can come out this door and you won't hear a sound," she said.

All of October's victims were either getting on or off a city bus, or were at a bus stop, when they were shot, police said. It was unclear if Tuesday's victim was near a bus stop.

"When I first divorced and moved here, I stayed in some pretty rough areas. But I've never seen anything like this. Maybe I need to consider moving," Street said, shaking her head. "It's some crazy person. That's all you can explain it. Because why? They're just targeting innocent people and shooting them."

Police gained a better description of the suspect after the fourth killing, saying a witness described him as a black male, 6 feet to 6-foot-2, with a thin build and light complexion. He had a large black pistol and was last seen all in black.

Gunman targeted neighbors then continued rampage

RANCHO TEHAMA RESERVE, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California man killed two neighbors with whom he had been feuding before he went on a shooting rampage Tuesday at apparent random sites—including an elementary school that successfully locked him out—in a series of attacks where he killed two more people and injured 10 before police fatally shot him, officials said.

Police said surveillance video shows the shooter unsuccessfully trying to enter a nearby elementary school after quick-thinking staff members locked the outside doors and barricaded themselves inside when they heard gunshots.

Tehama County Assistant Sheriff Phil Johnston said the gunman spent about six minutes shooting into Rancho Tehama Elementary School before driving off to continue shooting elsewhere. Johnston said one student was shot and injured and is expected to survive.

"It was a bizarre and murderous rampage," Johnston said.

He said the 45-minute spree ended when a patrol car rammed the stolen vehicle the shooter was driving and killed him in a shootout. Johnston said the shooter was facing charges of assaulting one of the feuding neighbors in January and that she had a restraining order against him.

"I think the motive of getting even with his neighbors and when it went that far—he just went on a rampage," Johnston said. He said there was a "domestic violence" report Monday involving the gunman, but didn't provide any further details.

At least one of the victims has life-threatening injuries, he said.

Johnston declined to identify the shooter until his relatives were notified, but he confirmed the gunman was charged with assault in January and had a restraining order placed against him. The district attorney, Gregg Cohen, told the Sacramento Bee he is prosecuting a man named Kevin Neal in that case.

Neal's mother told The Associated Press he was in a long-running dispute with neighbors he believed were cooking methamphetamine.

Asia

China sending envoy to North Korea following Trump visit

AP

Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang, Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump, right, make their way to the stage for the family photo at the APEC Summit in Danang, Vietnam, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017.

BEIJING (AP)—Following President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing, China said Wednesday that it would send a high-level special envoy to North Korea amid an extended chill in relations between the neighbors over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons and missile programs.

Song Tao, the head of China's ruling Communist Party's International Department, will travel to Pyongyang on Friday to report on outcomes of the party's national congress held last month, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Xinhua said Song, as president and party leader Xi Jinping's special envoy, would carry out a "visit" in addition to delivering his report, but gave no details about his itinerary or meetings. It also made no mention of Trump's trip to Beijing or the North's weapons programs, although Trump has repeatedly called on Beijing to do more to use its influence to pressure Pyongyang into altering its behavior.

Song would be the first ministerial-level Chinese official to visit North Korea since October 2015, when Politburo Standing Committee member Liu Yunshan met with leader Kim Jong Un. Liu delivered a letter to Kim from Xi expressing hopes for a strong relationship, although the respite in frosty ties proved short-lived.

Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin visited Pyongyang in October of last year.

China's Communist Party and North Korea's ruling Workers' Party have long-standing ties that often supersede formal diplomacy, even while Beijing has long been frustrated with Pyongyang's provocations and unwillingness to reform its economy.

However, Song is not directly connected to China's efforts to convince Pyongyang to cease its nuclear weapons program and return to talks, downplaying the chances for a breakthrough in that highly contentious area.

China is also North Korea's largest trading partner and chief source of food and fuel aid, although it says its influence with Kim's regime is often exaggerated by the U.S. and others. While it is enforcing harsh new U.N. sanctions targeting the North's sources of foreign currency, Beijing has called for steps to renew dialogue.

Beijing is also opposed to measures that could bring down Kim's regime, possibly depriving it of a buffer with South Korea and the almost 30,000 U.S. troops stationed there, and leading to a refugee crisis and chaos along its bother with the North.

In Beijing last week, Trump urged Xi to pressure North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program.

China can fix the problem "easily and quickly," Trump said in remarks to journalists alongside Xi. He urged Xi to "hopefully work on it very hard."

"If he works on it hard, it will happen. There's no doubt about it," Trump said.

While calling the visit significant, a top Chinese expert on North Korea relations downplayed any connection with Trump's statements in Beijing, saying it fit a pattern of traditional exchanges between the two parties following significant events such as national congresses.

"Representatives are dispatched to brief the other side at a chosen time and chosen level. It is a tradition and it is unnecessary to connect it with Trump's visit to China," said Guo Rui, researcher at the Institute for North Korean and South Korean Studies at Jilin University in northeastern China.

However, he said the visit "shows China's willingness to see a continuous development of the friendly relations between the two sides."

Filipino leader calls Trudeau's drug war comments insulting

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he was angered and insulted on Tuesday by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's comments about the Philippine government's war on drugs, which has earned widespread condemnation for leaving thousands of suspects dead.

Trudeau

Trudeau said he raised concerns about human rights abuses and extrajudicial killings in Duterte's anti-drug campaign when he met Tuesday with the president ahead of Canada's summit in the Philippines with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Trudeau was the first leader of the 20 attending this week's ASEAN summit and related meetings who has publicly said he brought up the touchy issue with the volatile Filipino leader.

"I also mentioned human rights, the rule of law and specifically extrajudicial killings as being an issue that Canada is concerned with," Trudeau said at a news conference. "I impressed on him the need for respect for the rule of law, and as always offered Canada's support and help as a friend to move forward on what is a real challenge."

He said Duterte was receptive to his comments and their exchange was cordial and positive.

But Duterte later told reporters that he had refused to provide an explanation for the killings.

"I said I will not explain. It is a personal and official insult," Duterte said. "It angers me when you are a foreigner, you do not know what exactly is happening in this country. You don't even investigate."

Duterte is highly sensitive to such criticism, and in the past called then U.S. President Barack Obama a "son of a bitch" after the State Department publicly expressed concern over the Philippine anti-drug campaign.

President Donald Trump, who also attended this week's ASEAN summit, did not publicly take Duterte to task for the drug crackdown. Instead, Trump said he and Duterte "had a great relationship," and avoided questions about whether he raised human rights concerns in a meeting with the Philippine leader.

The White House later said they discussed the Islamic State group, illegal drugs and trade during the 40-minute meeting. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said human rights came up "briefly" in the context of the Philippines' fight against illegal drugs. She did not say if Trump was critical of Duterte's program.

Harry Roque, Duterte's spokesman, said there was no mention of human rights or extralegal killings during the meeting with Trump, but there was a lengthy discussion of the Philippines' war on drugs, with Duterte doing most of the explaining.

The two sides later issued a statement saying they "underscored that human rights and the dignity of human life are essential, and agreed to continue mainstreaming the human rights agenda in their national programs."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australians endorse gay marriage, ensuring Parliament bill

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australians supported gay marriage in a postal survey that ensures Parliament will consider legalizing same-sex weddings this year. The Australian Bureau of Statistics said on Wednesday 62 percent of registered voters who responded in the unprecedented survey favored reform. The conservative government promised to allow a bill creating marriage equality to be considered in Parliament in the final two-week session that is due to end on Dec. 7. A "no" vote in the survey would have put marriage equality off the political agenda, perhaps for years. Thousands of marriage equality supporters waving rainbow flags gathered anxiously in city parks around the country and cheered when the results was announced. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, a vocal advocate of marriage equality, called on lawmakers to heed the "overwhelming" result and to commit to legislate for gay marriage by next month. "They voted 'yes' for fairness, they voted 'yes' for commitment, they voted 'yes' for love," Turnbull told reporters. "Now it is up to us here in the Parliament of Australia to get on with it, to get on with the job the Australian people have tasked us to do and get this done this year before Christmas - that must be our commitment."

5.5 magnitude quake hits off South Korea's coast

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean media say an earthquake measuring magnitude 5.5 has hit off the country's southeastern coast. Yonhap news agency says the quake was detected about 6 kilometers (4 miles) north of the southeastern port city of Pohang. Residents in the capital Seoul, more than 300 kilometers (186 miles) away, say they've felt tremors and are reporting their buildings have been shaken. South Korea has relatively little seismic activity, unlike neighboring Japan.

Sri Lanka official denies allegations of torture, rape

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Sri Lanka's defense minister denied Tuesday that his country committed torture and rape of suspected rebels, as charged by more than 50 men of the island's Tamil ethnic minority who are seeking political asylum in Europe. Kapila Waidyaratne called the claims of abuses "baseless and unfounded." "The government of Sri Lanka is for zero tolerance with regard to sexual abuse and so on," Waidyaratne told The Associated Press as he attended the U.N. Peacekeeping Defense Ministerial conference in Vancouver. The allegations came in a Nov. 8 report by the AP on the asylum seekers and their claims of being abducted and tortured by Sri Lanka's current government. The Tamils said they were raped, branded or beaten repeatedly. The AP reviewed 32 medical and psychological evaluations and interviewed 20 men.

World

Zimbabwe army controls broadcaster, says Mugabe, wife safe

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—In an extraordinary statement after taking over the state broadcaster during a night of unrest, Zimbabwe's army said early Wednesday it was only targeting "criminals" around President Robert Mugabe, and sought to reassure the country that "this is not a military takeover."

Mugabe and his wife were safe and sound, the army spokesman said.

"As soon as we have accomplished our mission, we expect that the situation will return to normalcy," the army spokesman said, calling on churches to pray for the country. He urged other security forces to "cooperate for the good of our country," warning that "any provocation will be met with an appropriate response."

Overnight, at least three explosions were heard in the capital, Harare, and military vehicles were seen in the streets. On Monday, the army commander had threatened to "step in" to calm political tensions over the 93-year-old Mugabe's possible successor. The ruling party accused the commander of "treasonable conduct."

The U.S. Embassy closed to the public Wednesday and encouraged citizens to shelter in place, citing "the ongoing political uncertainty through the night." The British Embassy issued a similar warning, citing "reports of unusual military activity."

For the first time, this southern African nation is seeing an open rift between the military and Mugabe, the world's oldest head of state who has ruled since independence from white minority rule in 1980. The military has been a key pillar of his power.

It was not clear where Mugabe and his wife were Wednesday but it seems they are in the custody of the military. "Their security is guaranteed," the army statement said. The president reportedly attended a weekly Cabinet meeting Tuesday.

"We wish to make it abundantly clear that this is not a military takeover," the army statement said. "We are only targeting criminals around (Mugabe) who are committing crimes that are causing social and economic suffering in the country in order to bring them to justice."

The statement called on troops to return to barracks immediately, with all leave canceled.

AP

In this Monday, Nov. 13, 2017, file photo, Zimbabwe's Army Commander, Constantino Chiwenga addresses a press conference in Harare.

Overnight, The Associated Press saw armed soldiers assaulting passers-by in Harare, as well as soldiers loading ammunition near a group of four military vehicles. The developments came several hours after the AP saw three armored personnel carriers in a convoy heading toward an army barracks just outside the capital.

Mugabe last week fired Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa and accused him of plotting to take power, including through witchcraft. Mnangagwa, who enjoyed the military's backing and once was seen as a potential president, fled the country and said he had been threatened. Over 100 senior officials allegedly supporting him have been listed for disciplinary measures by a faction associated with Mugabe's wife, Grace.

Iran to probe state-built homes destroyed by deadly quake

SARPOL-E-ZAHAB, Iran (AP)—Iranian President Hassan Rouhani launched an investigation Tuesday into why government housing built by his hard-line predecessor collapsed while others withstood a powerful earthquake near the border with Iraq that killed more than 530 people.

In the Kurdish town of Sarpol-e-Zahab, which was reconstructed in the decades since the 1980s war with Iraq, the outer walls of apartment complexes tumbled away in the magnitude 7.3 earthquake Sunday night. The housing was built as a part of the "Mehr" or "kindness" project of former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Some now-homeless survivors simply wept outside, while others angrily showed Associated Press journalists the destruction done by the quake.

"Other buildings near our apartment are not damaged as much because they were built privately," said Ferdows Shahbazi, 42, who lived in one of the Mehr buildings.

She sarcastically added: "This is 'kindness' as the name suggests very well!"

Rescuers used backhoes and other heavy equipment to dig through toppled buildings in Sarpol-e-Zahab, home to more than half of the dead. The apartment complexes sit next to lush pastures in the almost entirely Kurdish province of Kermanshah, nestled in the Zagros Mountains along the border with Iraq.

Both rescuers and residents stood on the remains of homes, looking through the rubble. Searchers used dogs to comb the debris — just as they have since Iran's 2003 earthquake in Bam that killed 26,000 people — although some clerics insist the animals are unclean.

The quake badly damaged the Sarpol-e-Zahab hospital, forcing the army to set up field clinics. The quake also reportedly killed an unspecified number of soldiers in an army garrison.

Aside from the 530 people killed in Iran, 7,817 were injured, the state-run IRNA news agency reported. Health Minister Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, who visited Kermanshah on Tuesday, warned that the death toll probably would rise.

"My feeling is that number ... will increase since victims were buried in many villages that their exact statistics will be announced in coming days," he said, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency.

Rouhani inspected the damage in the province and offered his support.

"This was a pain for all Iranians," he said. "Representing the nation of Iran, I offer my condolences to the people of Kermanshah, and tell them that all of us are behind Kermanshah."

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif thanked foreign countries offering to help but wrote on Twitter: "For now, we are able to manage with our own resources."

Also touring the area was cleric Abdolhossein Moezi, a representative of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Moezi said there was a need for more relief material and "security."

That was echoed by Nazar Barani, the mayor of the town of Ezgeleh, who told state TV his constituency still had a "deep need" for food, medicine and tents. He said 80 percent of the buildings in the town had been damaged.

The temblor hit about 19 miles (31 kilometers) outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and struck 14.4 miles (23.2 kilometers) below the surface, a somewhat shallow depth that can cause broader damage.

Syria market atrocity shows three brokers unconcerned with attacks

BEIRUT (AP)—One day after a ferocious attack on a market in northern Syria killed more than 60 people, the collective silence from the three architects of an agreement to ease the fighting in Syria has raised serious questions about their commitment to protect civilians caught in the crossfire of the country's devastating civil war.

Turkey, Russia and Iran are the guarantors of an agreement meant to freeze the lines of conflict in Syria and protect against the sort of horror that befell marketgoers in the town of Atareb on Monday.

"It doesn't seem to matter if we are bombed or not," said Fayyad Akoush, 26, who escaped from a grocery that was damaged by the attack.

There were at least three airstrikes on the market, which destroyed one building and damaged several others, according to witnesses and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group. Shoppers were crushed under the rubble or blown apart by the blasts, their limbs torn from their bodies or their heads crushed.

The Syrian Civil Defense search-and-rescue volunteers, known as the White Helmets, told The Associated Press they had given up hope of finding more survivors and were still digging for bodies of the missing more than 24 hours after the attack. They said at least 61 people were killed.

"You can see the body fragments in the rubble," said Yasser Hmeish, a medical technician who was filming rescue efforts at the scene.

It is not — and may never be — fully known who was behind the attack, though residents and the opposition Syrian National Coalition have accused Russia, a chief military backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad. Syrians are used to identifying planes by their shape, flight patterns and weapons, though Assad's forces also fly Russian jets. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it couldn't determine whether Russia or the Syrian government was behind the attack.

A Russian connection would not be any surprise, despite Moscow's signing of the agreement that was supposed to put an end to a strategy of collective punishment through sieges and bombardment that has left at least 400,000 people dead and displaced 11 million — half of Syria's prewar population — during the seven-year civil war.

Environment

Trump's poor climate record sends America's green business to China

By ANITA KUMAR
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

TNS
Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, meets with his U.S. counterpart, Donald Trump, in the latter's Florida resort of Mar-a-Lago on April 6, 2017.

BEIJING—Tesla knew just where to look when the California company decided to expand its business in manufacturing electric cars: China.

The country has moved quickly to fill a leadership void created by the United States when President Donald Trump rolled back American efforts to fight climate change. And, in a development likely to irritate the businessman-turned-president, China is making money doing it.

"Two countries went side-by-side tackling this issue," said Ma Jun, a prominent Chinese environmentalist and a director with the Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs in Beijing. "All of a sudden one country pulled out and pushed China into the driver's seat. Like it or not, China is the leader."

Now U.S. companies — many from California — are benefiting from China's efforts to cut carbon emissions and boost renewable energy. They are building energy-efficient windows, installing solar panels and designing green roofs.

And President Xi Jinping is relishing his newfound leadership role on what has become one of the most pressing economic and environmental issues worldwide.

China, Xi said in a major speech last month, had taken "a driving seat in international cooperation" to respond to climate change. "No country alone can address the many challenges facing mankind. No country can afford to retreat into self-isolation," he warned.

Climate is not likely to be on the agenda when Trump arrives in Beijing on Wednesday for a two-day state visit with Xi. Instead, Trump's visit is designed to push China to help contain the nuclear threat next door, in North Korea, and to ease trade restrictions.

Meanwhile, American businesses are investing where they see the most promising market. Tesla is planning to manufacture at least a couple hundred thousand cars a year in China. The country wants electric and hybrid cars to make up at least one-fifth of its vehicle sales by 2025. The company's revenue from China last year tripled to more than $1 billion — more than 15 percent of the total.

Tesla did not respond to a request for comment, but California Gov. Jerry Brown did.

"China, like California, is leading the charge to get more electric vehicles on the road and reduce carbon emissions — and our companies are well positioned to thrive in this new economy," said Brown, who has met with Xi about climate change and is attending the United Nations climate change conference this week in Bonn, Germany.

Yang Yaohui, 47, a senior executive of a consultant company in Shanghai, bought his first electric car — a four-door model S sedan — from Tesla for $135,000 in April. Through a translator, he said he chose Tesla because he could drive farther than other brands without stopping to charge his car. Besides, he said he thought it would be fun to drive.

Tesla is hardly the only U.S. company to benefit from Chinese demand.

Gridtential, an energy storage developer in Santa Clara, Calif., has partnered with Leoch Battery — the largest exporter of lead-based batteries from China — as it looks to tap into the country's hybrid vehicle market.

"As a result of China's climate stance, clean transportation ambitions, and increasing need for more powerful batteries, Gridtential sees a lot of opportunity in China," Gridtential Chairman Ray Kubis said.

Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, and Xi made international headlines when their countries — the world's largest producers of greenhouse gases, accounting for nearly 40 percent of the world's emissions — reached a historic climate change deal. For Xi, it was about more than global warning. He sees the economic benefits for his country and hears the complaints from residents who live in one of the world's most polluted cities.

But since taking office, Trump, who has called climate change a hoax invented by the Chinese, has appointed climate change doubters — such as Scott Pruitt and Rick Perry — to advise him and rolled back the Clean Power Plan, Obama's signature effort to fight climate change by cutting carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

Trump announced plans to pull out of the Paris climate agreement, an international pact to combat global warming, causing Tesla CEO Elon Musk to resign from two of Trump's business advisory councils. This week, Syria, the last remaining country to not sign the agreement, said it would do so.

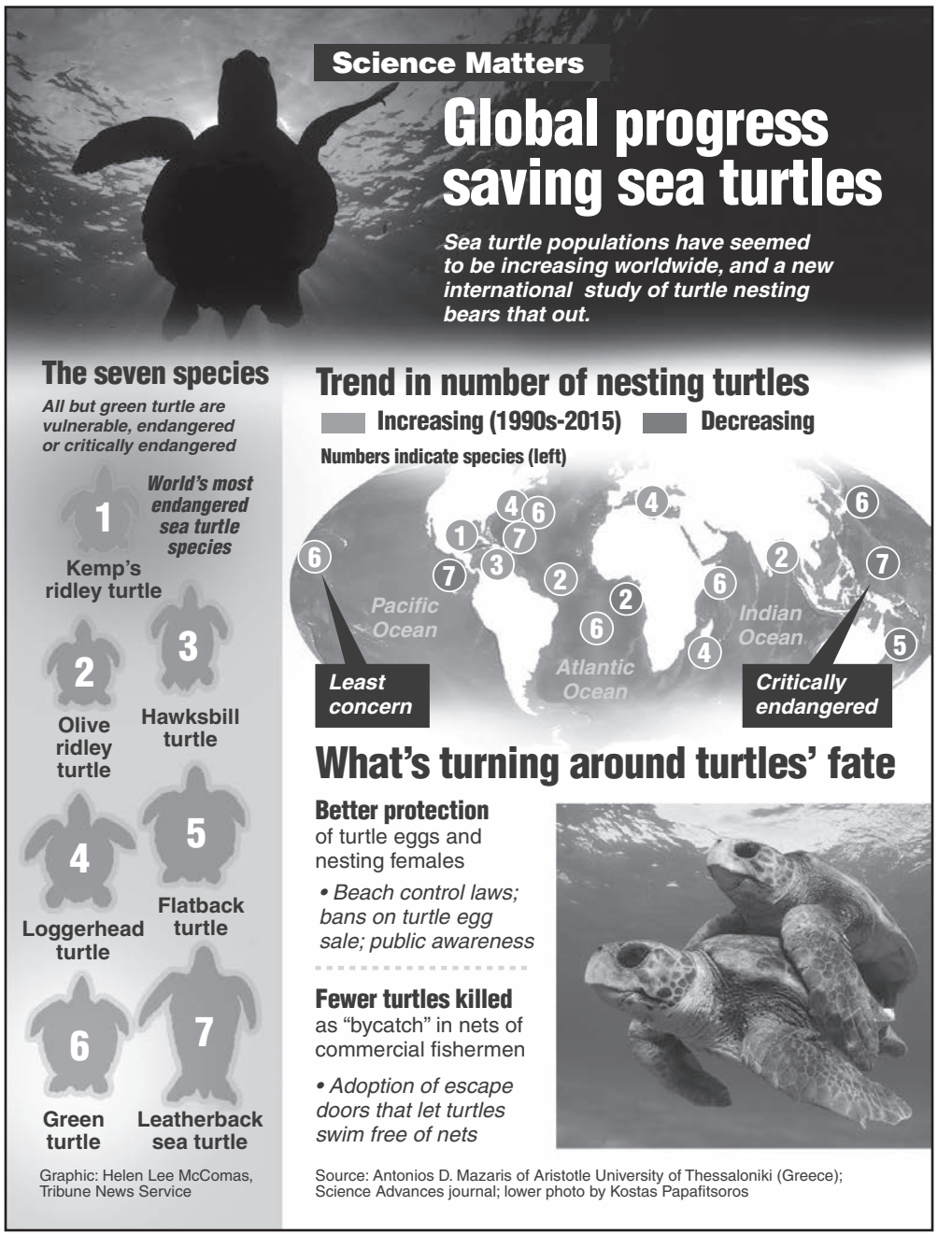
David Rank, who quit as the top U.S. diplomat in China after Trump pulled out of the agreement, said he was surprised when the president made the decision, despite Trump's rhetoric on the campaign trail.

"Finding any way to remain at the table would have reduced the damage to U.S. internationally," he said. "I don't understand the logic of leaving, which cripples our standing in the world. Pulling out of the one agreement that unites the rest of the world seems to be a terrible decision."

Earlier this year, the World Resources Institute found that China is making progress faster than expected in combating climate change — exceeding one of its goals, nearing completion of a second and more than halfway toward the final two.

"China is transforming its domestic energy system and has been taking noticeable diplomatic efforts towards filling a part of the gap left by a rapidly retreating U.S," Greenpeace East Asia senior climate policy adviser Li Shuo said. "The next step is to demonstrate that the show continues, with or without Trump."

Some U.S. companies accuse China of shutting them out of the fast-growing industry. In May, a pair of U.S. solar manufacturers asked the International Trade Commission to investigate whether imports from China and elsewhere were harming the industry. Last week, the commission recommended tariffs and other restrictions.


Science Matters
Global progress saving sea turtles
Sea turtle populations have seemed to be increasing worldwide, and a new international study of turtle nesting bears that out.
The seven species
All but green turtle are vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered
1
World's most endangered sea turtle species
Kemp's ridley turtle
2
Olive ridley turtle
3
Hawksbill turtle
4
Loggerhead turtle
5
Flatback turtle
6
Green turtle
7
Leatherback sea turtle
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Trend in number of nesting turtles
Increasing (1990s-2015)
Decreasing
Numbers indicate species (left)
Pacific Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
Indian Ocean
Least concern
Critically endangered
What's turning around turtles' fate
Better protection
of turtle eggs and nesting females
• Beach control laws; bans on turtle egg sale; public awareness
Fewer turtles killed
as "bycatch" in nets of commercial fishermen
• Adoption of escape doors that let turtles swim free of nets
Source: Antonios D. Mazaris of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece); Science Advances journal; lower photo by Kostas Papafitsoros

Life & Style

Rare manuscripts to be sold from alleged Paris pyramid scam

AP
The original manuscript of "The 120 Days of Sodom, or the School of Libertinage," a scandalous and pornographic novel written by French writer Marquis de Sade while jailed in the Bastille prison is displayed prior to the auction of the Aristophil Collections, in Neuilly-sur-Seine, west of Paris, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017.

PARIS (AP)—Thousands of French investors are hoping to recover some of the money they lost in an alleged pyramid scheme when a collection of rare manuscripts goes up for auction starting next month.

The 130,000-piece collection has been estimated to be worth a sum that could run eight or nine figures. It includes the original 1785 manuscript for "The 120 Days of Sodom," the explicit and ultimately influential novel the Marquis de Sade wrote in the Bastille prison.

A judge ordered the documents seized three years ago as part of a fraud investigation. Other valuable highlights are a hand-written testimony by an American survivor of the Titanic and a text written by King Louis XVI a few months before his beheading during the French Revolution.

The so-called Aristophil collection will be gradually sold at the prestigious Hotel Drouot auction house in Paris. About 300 auctions are expected to take place over at least six years. Top lots for the first sale, scheduled for December 20, were displayed Tuesday outside Paris.

The works came from Aristophil, a company in Paris that police officers searched in November 2014 as part of an investigation into a suspected pyramid scam.

Founder Gerard Lheritier allegedly promised clients high profits from investments in the old books and manuscripts the company acquired. Financial stakes in the works were then allegedly resold to new investors to finance repayments to earlier ones.

Lheritier was given preliminary charges of organized fraud and Aristophil was placed in liquidation proceedings in 2015. The case has yet to be sent to a French court.

Auctioneer Claude Aguttes, who was appointed by French courts to preserve, secure, sort, assess and auction the works, told The Associated Press that some 18,000 French private customers—most of them with little familiarity in the specialized market for rare documents—were lured in by the promise of profits.

To convince gullible customers to invest, Aristophil allegedly dispatched brokers across France to make sales pitches, buyers told investigators. Clients could either purchase the works outright or as joint owners, depending on how much they put in.

Auctioneer Aguttes offered to turn over manuscripts to the minority of investors who owned them in full. But "90 percent of them preferred that they be sold," he said.

The works with joint ownership will be auctioned off and the proceeds distributed by court receivers to former Aristophil clients in proportion to their starting stake.

Because the documents were sold and resold at inflated prices through the alleged pyramid scheme, Aguttes does not think the final bids will reach the prices paid by the investors. Losses for many works could reach 80-90 percent, Aguttes said.

Study: Women and minority TV directors make modest gains

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Women and minority television directors made modest gains last season, but the majority of television episodes are still directed by white men, the Directors Guild of America found in a study released Tuesday.

The guild's study states that 62 percent of nearly 4,500 television episodes reviewed during the 2016-2017 season were directed by white men. When adding in white female directors, 78 percent of the television episodes reviewed were helmed by white directors.

Non-white directors accounted for 22 percent of all episodes directed last year, with black directors accounting for 13 percent. Asian-Americans accounted for 5 percent of the episodes directed, while Latinos represented 4 percent.

The numbers reflect low single-digit increases for female and minority directors from previous seasons: White women directed 16 percent of episodes in 2016-2017 compared with 14 percent, and minority females directed 5 percent of episodes, up from 3 percent in 2015-2016.

Directors Guild President Thomas Schlamme wrote in a statement accompanying the report that the results show "stark disparities among the major studios that raise questions about how committed to inclusion some employers really are."

He said studios must do more to find directors from diverse backgrounds.

"Frankly, it's hard to understand why they're not doing more," Schlamme said. "Even if all the right reasons are not enough for them, they should at least be motivated by the bottom line—inclusion just makes good business sense."

Harvey Weinstein sued for sexual battery by actress

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An unnamed actress has sued Harvey Weinstein alleging he committed sexual battery against her in Beverly Hills hotel rooms in 2015 and 2016 after she agreed to meet the producer to discuss a television role.

The actress is identified only as Jane Doe in the sexual battery lawsuit filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. It alleges that Weinstein held the woman against her will while Weinstein engaged in sexual situations.

The suit says the woman first met Weinstein in 2011 at a party and he offered to assist her with her acting career. For several years, Weinstein invited the woman to awards show parties.

Weinstein met her at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills in late 2015 to discuss a part in the television series "Marco Polo," which Weinstein and his company were producing. The producer asked her if he could masturbate in front of her, and when she refused, he held her by the wrist and forced her to watch him, the lawsuit said.

The next incident happened several months later at the same hotel, according to the lawsuit. The woman agreed to meet Weinstein to discuss the "Marco Polo" role again, and this time alleges Weinstein threw her on a bed, started performing oral sex on her and put his penis inside her vagina before starting to start masturbate on her, the lawsuit states.

The woman was able to break free and flee the room, the suit said.

"Any allegations of non-consensual sex are unequivocally denied by Mr. Weinstein," the producer's representative Holly Baird wrote in a statement. "Mr. Weinstein obviously can't speak to anonymous allegations, but with respect to any women who have made allegations on the record, Mr. Weinstein believes that all of these relationships were consensual."

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages. It also names The Weinstein Co., which fired its co-founder after decades of allegations of sexual harassment were detailed in an expose by The New York Times last month.

Newly discovered painting shows Washington's wartime tent

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philip Mead was online late one night in May, looking for possible artifacts from the American Revolution, when a painting up for auction caught his eye and got his heart racing.

The chief historian at the American Revolution Museum had spied an unsigned watercolor from 1782. It was a panorama of an army encampment, and to his expert eye seemed to feature the only known wartime depiction of the tent George Washington used as his command center during the Revolutionary War.

The tent is the marquee exhibit at the museum, which opened in April. And, thanks to Mead's sharp eye, the museum now owns the painting that will anchor an exhibition next year.

Mead said the discovery seemed almost "too good to be true."

"I've had this level of excitement only a handful of times in my 30 years of looking for this stuff," Mead said.

When Mead saw the painting, he immediately emailed the image to Scott Stephenson, the museum's vice president of collections, exhibitions and programming.

"My heart leapt into my throat when I realized what this painting was," Stephenson said.

They had to quickly line up donors to bid on the piece, which was going up for auction just days after they spotted it. They were concerned maybe they weren't the only people to spot the rare work, and they weren't 100 percent sure the painting was exactly what they had hoped.

"Our motto is you must kiss every frog in case it is a prince," Stephenson said.

In this case, it was a prince.

With only one other bidder, they landed the painting easily, for $12,000. Once in hand, the museum's curatorial team was able to conclude the painting shows the Continental Army's fall encampment at Verplanck's Point, New York, and was created by Pierre L'Enfant, the French-born engineer best known for laying out the nation's capital.

People names Blake Shelton its Sexiest Man Alive 2017

NEW YORK (AP)—People magazine named Blake Shelton its Sexiest Man Alive for 2017 on Tuesday, but it took some convincing by his girlfriend Gwen Stefani to get her guy on board.

The country music superstar and coach on NBC's "The Voice" hates being the center of attention, the magazine said.

"She goes, 'Listen to me,'" recalled the 6-foot-5, Oklahoma-bred Shelton. "'You're going to regret this for the rest of your life if you don't take this gift and just live in the moment.' I've been ugly my whole life. If I can be sexy for a year, I'm taking it!'"

Bonus for the outspoken Shelton: He can hold the accolade over the head of Adam Levine, his fellow coach on the singing competition and 2013's Sexiest Man Alive. Only Shelton used some colorful language to describe that experience between his pal and banter partner on air.

Shelton said he was, in fact, proud and honored to have been picked, adding: "I'm not going to treat this like Hugh Jackman or one of those guys who's humble about it. People are going to hate me over this. Because it's going to be used in every conversation, whether it's at 'The Voice' or at the feed store in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, or in a conversation with a doctor. Until I have to hand the title, which is what it is to me, over to someone else, this is mine. This is like a certification."

Shelton's latest album, "Texoma Shore," hit No. 1 on the Billboard Top Country Albums this week.

The magazine's Sexiest Man Alive special double issue hits newsstands Friday.

Growing up, Shelton told People, he had some awkward years.

"I think to describe myself as a child, one word comes to mind. And that's fat," he said. "People say I haven't changed since before I made it. And I'm still fat today. That's proof!"

He's not, of course. He hops on the treadmill to stay in shape, though he acknowledges the allure of chips and dip, a bag of Cheetos when he's starving and a trip to Sonic when he's back home in Tishomingo.

Shelton wasn't the only sexiest man anointed. The magazine named the Pearson men of NBC's "This is Us" as sexiest cast: Sterling K. Brown, who plays Randall; Milo Ventimiglia, who plays Jack; and Justin Hartley, who plays Kevin. Their reveal went to NBC's "Today" show.

"I think being sexy is just being comfortable in your skin, and these two cats are very comfortable in their skin," Brown said at a photoshoot of his co-stars

Ventimiglia said he believes humor, confidence and kindness are key. Oh, and "stubble."

Hartley agreed: "Stubble and forgiveness, that's my mantra.

The trio will be featured inside the special issue.

AP
In this Nov. 4, 2015 file photo, Blake Shelton performs at the 49th annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

Rose McGowan surrenders to Virginia police on drug charge

McGowan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Actress Rose McGowan, a leading voice against sexual harassment in Hollywood, has accepted an arrest warrant on a drug charge in a Washington suburb.

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority spokesman Andrew Trull says in an email Tuesday night that McGowan has surrendered to Airports Authority Police. She is charged with possession of a controlled substance.

The felony charge stems from a police investigation of personal belongings left behind on a Jan. 20 flight that arrived at Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia. Police say the items tested positive for narcotics. Airports Authority Police Department got the warrant on Feb. 1.

McGowan was released on $5,000 unsecured bond.

McGowan is among several actresses who have said movie mogul Harvey Weinstein forced them into unwanted sex.

Rare painting by Leonardo da Vinci auctioned in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—A painting thought by scholars to be one of only a few by Leonardo da Vinci to have survived the half-millennia since the artist's death is set to be auctioned Wednesday in New York, where it is guaranteed to sell for at least $100 million.

Art lovers have lined up by the thousands at special presale exhibitions in Hong Kong, San Francisco, London and New York to see the only work by the Renaissance master in private hands.

The 500-year-old oil painting depicting Christ holding a crystal orb, called "Salvator Mundi" or "Savior of the World," is one of fewer than 20 paintings by Leonardo da Vinci known to exist, according to Christie's, the auction house conducting the sale.

"I can hardly convey how exciting it is for those of us directly involved in its sale," said Christie's specialist Alan Wintermute. "The word 'masterpiece' barely begins to convey the rarity, importance and sublime beauty of Leonardo's painting."

Wintermute called it "the Holy Grail of old master paintings." A backer of the auction has guaranteed a bid of at least $100 million (85 million euros). Experts have said it might be worth more, except for its generally poor state of preservation and lingering questions about its authenticity.

The 26-inch (66-centimeter) painting dates from around 1500 and shows Christ dressed in Renaissance-style robes, his right hand raised in blessing as his left hand holds a crystal sphere.

The painting's history is as mysterious as Jesus' enigmatic gaze, which invites comparison to a better-known Leonardo work, the "Mona Lisa."

"Salvator Mundi" was owned by King Charles I of England in the mid-1600s and was auctioned by the son of the Duke of Buckingham in 1763.

It then disappeared from view until 1900, when it resurfaced and was acquired by a British collector. At the time, it was thought to be a work of a Leonardo disciple, rather than the master himself.

The painting was sold again in 1958 and then acquired in 2005, badly damaged and partly painted-over, by a consortium of art dealers who paid less than $10,000.

They restored the painting extensively and documented its authenticity as a work by Leonardo. The work's current owner is Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev, who bought it in 2013 for $127.5 million in a private sale that became the subject of a continuing lawsuit.

Christie's says a majority of scholars believe it is a work by Leonardo, though some have questioned that determination while others have said it was so extensively restored that it is probably more akin to a copy than an original.

Man who hates his job drags girlfriend down with griping

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend for three years. We have lived together for the last two. We have a great life together, but there is a problem I don't know how to solve. "Jeremy" hates his job.

We met in the education department of our college, and after graduation, we both took jobs in the public school system. I enjoy my career, but he loathes his. He complains constantly without seeming to take action on the issue. I know he's miserable, but he hasn't looked for other jobs or enrolled in a new school program.

I have bad days, too, but I've reached the end of listening to the constant griping. I am usually a positive person, but he is dragging my mood down because of this. He says I need to guide him and give him some direction, but I don't know what to say. I don't think it's my responsibility to tell another adult what he should or shouldn't do with his life. I don't mind helping him talk through his choices, but he wants more from me.

This is the man I want to marry. Is there a way to get past this issue and make it work?

UNCERTAIN AND LOST

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Until your boyfriend has settled this uncertainty about his work life, any discussion about marriage should be put on hold. I agree you are not qualified to give him career advice. However, you might ask him to tell you what exactly it is that he hates about his job, and what he would rather be doing. His answers may give both of you insight into what he may be better suited for emotionally, and stimulate him to do something positive about his future. Once he has more clarity, there may be places he can go for career counseling that can help him decide what his next steps should be.

DEAR ABBY: We bought our first home seven months ago. We love it, except for one major issue. Our neighbor, who's the same age as I am, is the biggest hypochondriac and laziest person I've ever seen.

She was training to be a police officer, but she had a headache every day, so she got let go last year. Ever since then we have been supporting her (food, Wi-Fi, OTC meds, feminine products). I finally cut her off for about a week until she Facebook-messaged me saying she was starving and hadn't eaten for two days, so I gave in. I gave her a job last week, and she didn't show up the first day.

What should I do? It's causing arguments between my husband and me. I hate to think she's hungry.

TROUBLED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

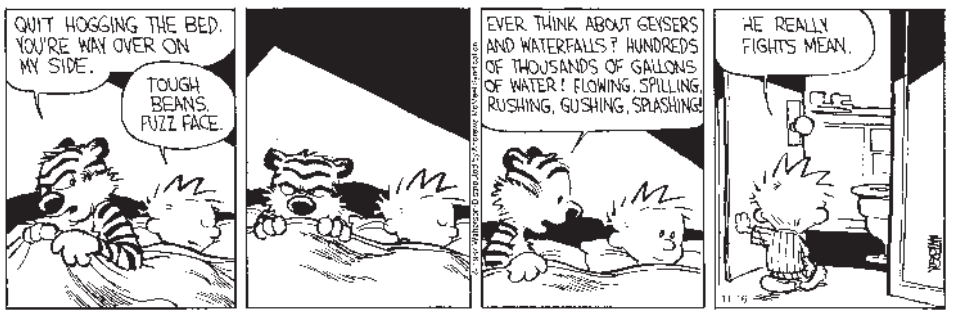
DEAR TROUBLED: You are a kindhearted person, but you are being taken advantage of. If your neighbor has family that can be located, they should be notified that she's unable to care for herself. If no relative is willing to take responsibility for her, contact social services or direct the woman to the nearest food bank or soup kitchen. I suspect her problems are more extensive than headaches and procrastination.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

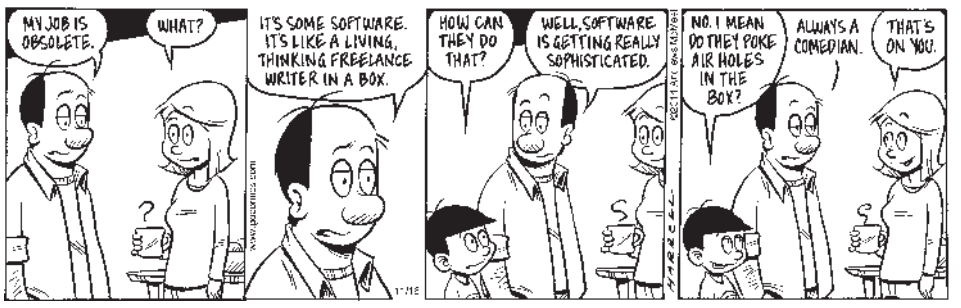

QUIT HOGGING THE BED. YOU'RE WAY OVER ON MY SIDE.
TOUGH BEANS, FUZZ FACE.
EVER THINK ABOUT GEYSERS AND WATERFALLS? HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF WATER! FLOWING, SPILLING, RUSHING, GUSHING, SPLASHING!
HE REALLY FIGHTS MEAN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

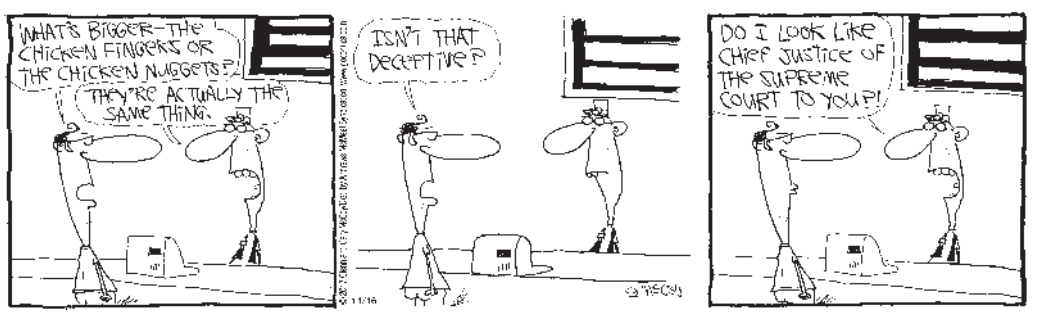
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MY JOB IS OBSOLETE.
WHAT?
IT'S SOME SOFTWARE. IT'S LIKE A LIVING, THINKING FREELANCE WRITER IN A BOX.
HOW CAN THEY DO THAT?
WELL, SOFTWARE IS GETTING REALLY SOPHISTICATED.
NO. I MEAN DO THEY POKE AIR HOLES IN THE BOX?
ALWAYS A COMEDIAN.
THAT'S ON YOU.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHAT'S BIGGER—THE CHICKEN FINGERS OR THE CHICKEN NUGGETS?
THEY'RE ACTUALLY THE SAME THING.
ISN'T THAT DECEPTIVE?
DO I LOOK LIKE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT TO YOU?!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

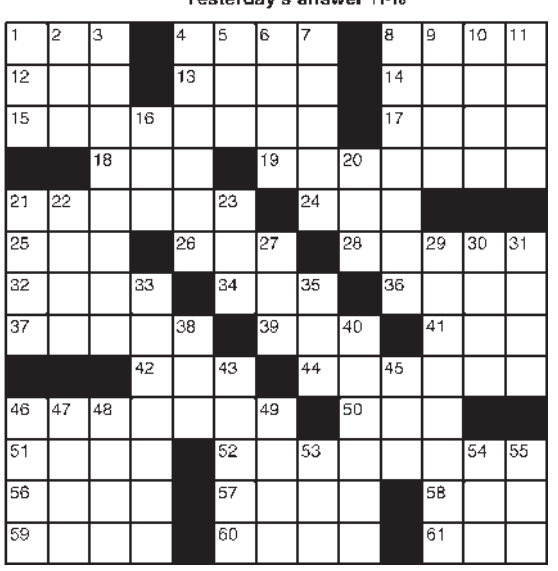
ACROSS
1 Taunting laugh
4 Austen heroine
8 Huff and puff
12 Olympics chant
13 First son
14 Corn Belt state
15 Emerging from a shell
17 "King —"
18 Kanga's kid
19 Oval
21 Theater platforms
24 Poetic dusk
25 Jean-Picard
26 Fix the soundtrack
28 Formal decrees
32 "My Way" writer
34 Glitch
36 Attempt
37 Foundation
39 Longing
41 "Where did — wrong?"
42 Scooted
44 Large gong
46 Apple dessert
50 Buddy
51 La Scala solo
52 Party headwear
56 Sharp tooth
57 Anti-oxidant berry
58 Dhabi preceder
59 Winds up
60 Fasting period
61 Cowboy moniker

DOWN
1 "Say what?"
2 Simile center
3 Where bowlers hang out?
4 Seconded
5 Avril follower
6 Ore source
7 Protractor measure
8 Skimpy swimsuits
9 Aerial stunt
10 Has
11 Carry on
16 Gear-wheel tooth
20 Started
21 Thick chunk
22 Albacore, e.g.
23 Second-stringer
27 Purchase
29 Idle talk
30 Forum wear
31 Physics bit
33 Car safety devices
35 Retrieve
38 Erie Canal mule
40 "Whatever you want"
43 Himalayan land
45 Scratch
46 Sidewalk eatery
47 Algerian port
48 Predicament
49 Indy event
53 Skillet
54 Honest politician
55 Prom rental

Solution time: 24 mins.

J	A	W		D	O	O	R		K	O	N	A
C	R	E		U	N	D	O		A	W	E	D
E	E	L		B	E	D	A	Z	Z	L	E	D
R	A	D	I	I			M	A	O			
			P	O	L	S		P	O	L	K	A
B	E	D	O	U	I	N	S		S	E	A	M
E	L	O		S	M	E	A	R		E	L	I
E	M	I	T		B	E	D	E	C	K	E	D
P	C	T	U	S		R	E	N	O			
			B	F	A			F	P	O	C	H
B	E	D	F	E	L	L	O	W		B	O	A
E	C	R	U		T	A	R	A		E	T	H
N	C	E	-		O	F	A	L		Y	E	A

Yesterday's answer 11-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Maggie Gyllenhaal, 40; Martha Plimpton, 47; Dean McDermott, 51; Marg Helgenberger, 59.

Happy Birthday: You'll have plenty of opportunities to put your creative imagination to work and to follow through with your plans. Home improvements, financial gains and the chance to make money doing the things you enjoy most will be within reach. A change in attitude and the way you live will create a sense of accomplishment. Make this a year to remember. Your numbers are 8, 11, 22, 27, 36, 39, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A joint venture will tempt you. Share your feelings, ideas and intentions and you will avoid being misrepresented. It's OK to be aggressive if you have everyone's consent before you plunge ahead. Personal changes need more attention. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Temptation will loom, but so will opportunity. Weigh the pros and cons of any situation before you make your move. A partnership is encouraged, but only if both you and the other person have the same intent. Evaluate others' motives. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Contracts, settlements and chronic health matters will come into play. Don't leave anything to chance. Make choices that will benefit you. It's OK to look out for others, but for now, put yourself first. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take a deep breath and prepare to share your ideas and plans for the future. You can now rest easy and make suggestions that will be looked upon favorably. Try something different or mingle with people from different backgrounds. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A change at home or to the way you live can be expected. Someone will confront you if you haven't been pulling your weight. Partying may be more fun, but eventually you'll wish you had been more responsible. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A financial decision, contract or settlement will hinge on what you say and how you react. Don't let emotions take over or lead to an argument that will make you look bad. Proceed with kindness and equality. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A partnership problem will need your undivided attention. Be patient when working your way through any difficulties you come across, and you will avoid a blowup that could be costly. The right reaction will lead to a win for you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Your mysterious ways will draw attention, intrigue and interest in what you are trying to accomplish. Offer information along with incentives and you will have no problem turning your plans into something great. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A group effort will take you down a path quite unfamiliar to what you have done or contributed to in the past. The experience will help make you more conscientious of those around you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Taking a unique approach when looking for a new position or presenting a project you are working on will captivate the people you approach. A positive change to your personal status will brighten your day. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll face emotional situations when dealing with friends and relatives. Be kind, but don't allow anyone to use emotional manipulation to overrule what you want to see unfold. Stand up for your rights and use intelligence to get your way. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Investing more time in yourself and the things you want to pursue will give you a better sense of how to market what you have to offer. Sharing your ideas with someone you respect will lead to a joint venture. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, compassionate and mysterious. You are unique and influential.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	6				3		
3					4			
5				6		2		4
					9		5	
		2				1		
	9		5					
1		3		4				9
			8					3
		7				6	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	9	5	3	6	8	2	4	1
2	4	8	7	9	1	3	5	6
3	1	6	2	4	5	8	7	9
4	7	3	9	1	6	5	2	8
8	2	9	5	3	4	1	6	7
6	5	1	8	7	2	9	3	4
5	6	7	1	2	9	4	8	3
1	3	2	4	8	7	6	9	5
9	8	4	6	5	3	7	1	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'DESIGNATED SURVIVOR' (TV SERIES) Solution: 9 letters

R	E	T	E	P	H	A	N	N	A	H	X	R	T	G
E	S	N	A	F	D	N	A	L	R	E	H	T	U	S
S	U	E	N	E	M	Y	D	P	L	O	E	G	H	D
U	O	D	N	O	R	Ⓐ	A	A	D	R	G	O	R	O
L	H	I	K	O	O	Ⓑ	L	E	R	E	R	A	E	O
T	E	S	I	L	H	Ⓒ	S	A	N	E	I	B	T	W
S	T	E	R	D	T	L	G	H	M	W	P	O	T	T
H	I	R	K	I	E	F	E	R	O	O	E	Y	I	A
S	H	P	M	V	S	I	E	C	A	W	N	L	R	H
I	W	K	A	A	M	T	A	T	M	T	N	I	L	C
E	I	S	N	D	G	A	H	I	A	E	C	M	C	S
L	J	A	S	O	N	G	L	G	L	C	O	E	A	A
C	A	T	A	L	A	N	I	L	I	A	A	Z	N	T
A	R	D	N	E	K	C	A	E	K	R	T	V	T	A
M	C	L	E	L	L	A	N	L	Q	G	W	I	O	N

© 2017 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/16

Aaron, ABC, Adan, Alex, Atwood, Canto, Catalan, David, Emily, Enemy, Fans, Garrett, Grace, Guggenheim, Hannah, Italia, Jason, Kendra, Kiefer, Kirkman, LaMonica, MacLeish, Maggie Q, Malik, Mall, McElhone, McLellan, Natascha, Oath, Penn, Peter, President, Results, Rhodes, Ricci, Ritter, Seth, Shore, Show, Sutherland, Task, Vacate, Wells, White House, Wright, Yoba, Zoe

Yesterday's Answer: G.I. Jane

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/KCHC-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 16, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM

"GROUNDS KEEPING SERVICES KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of IMANTS EDUARD KLINGBERGS, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0264

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Cynthia Guillermo has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Imants Eduard Kingbergs, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Nov. 30, 2017, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Imants Eduard Klingbergs, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: Nov 01, 2017
/s/
Judge

Domingo E. Dones
PO Box 503135 Saipan MP 96950
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DOMINGO E. DONES, Petitioner vs. VIOLETA B. SALES, Respondent	FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0405 **SUMMONS**

TO: VIOLETA B. SALES
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Domingo E. Dones whose mailing address is PO Box 503135 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2017.
/s/
Clerk of Court

Northern Marianas College

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6858/6855 • Fax: (670) 235-3696
Website: http://www.marianas.edu

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-Announcement No. 17-006
Position Title: **Program Lead: Extension & Communications Specialist**
Department: Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services (CREES)
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 35/02
Annual Salary: $45,632.48 - $53,126.90
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 05, 2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-032
Position Title: **Director, School of Business**
Department: Business
Pay Level & Step: 35/Steps 01-02
Annual Salary: $51,528.98 - $53,332.49
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: July 26, 2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-041
Position Title: **Director of Marketing & Communications**
Department: Office of Institutional Advancement
Pay Level & Step: 25/Steps 01-04
Annual Salary: $49,864.16 - $55,285.29
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 20, 2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-042
Position Title: **Dean, Institutional Effectiveness**
Department: Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Pay Level & Step: Executive Grade 02/Steps 01-02
Annual Salary: $60,000 - $62,100
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: July 31, 2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-044
Position Title: **Specialty Instructor-Professor, Nursing**
Department: Nursing
Pay Level & Step: 27/03, 29/01, 30/01, 31/01
Annual Salary: $46,265.08 - $53,604.43
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: July 11, 2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-052
Position Title: **Department Chair, Languages & Humanities**
Department: Languages & Humanities
Pay Level & Step: 36/01 – 36/02
Annual Salary: $51,528.98 - $53,332.49
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 23, 2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-059
Position Title: **Systems Administrator**
Department: Information Technology
Pay Level & Step: 22/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: $43,197.84 - $44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: October 12, 2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-060
Position Title: **Extension Aide I-II (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)**
Department: Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services (CREES)
Pay Level & Step: 10/01, 12/01
Annual Salary: $15,818.92 - $26,773.63
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: September 20, 2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-061
Position Title: **Extension Aide I-II (CREES) - Rota**
Department: Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services (CREES)
Pay Level & Step: 10/01, 12/01
Annual Salary: $15,818.92 - $26,773.63
Location: NMC Rota Campus
Opening Date: September 20, 2017 Closing Date: Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: Oceans apart

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Mets set eyes on Japanese 'Babe Ruth'

ORLANDO — The Mets may throw their hat into the ring for Japanese star Shohei Otani, multiple industry sources confirmed Tuesday night. They would join the Yankees and other big-market teams possibly vying for the right to land the 23-year-old two-way standout.

It is also a long shot that the player who is called the Japanese Babe Ruth will be lured away from the Red Sox, Yankees or Dodgers and end up in Flushing, an industry source said Tuesday night.

But the Mets will definitely consider it when Otani is officially on the market, should that happen.

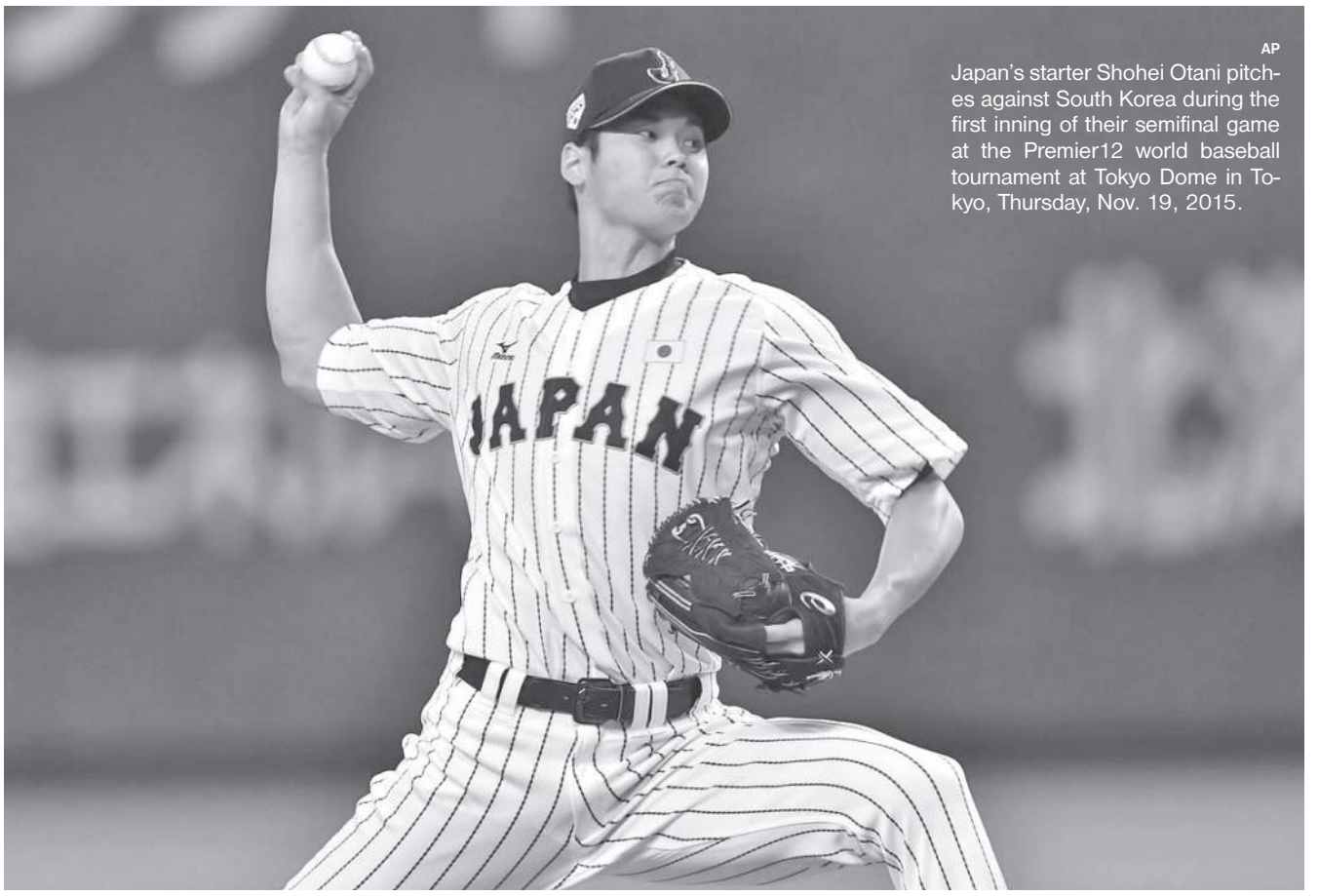
First and foremost, MLB has to work out an agreement with Japanese baseball to actually get Otani here.

The league and the Players Association will have to agree to grandfather him in under the now-expired posting system. That would mean the team that signs Otani would pay $20 million to his Japanese team, the Nippon-Ham Fighters. His long-awaited arrival is being held up by this dispute, but is expected to be worked out before next month's Winter Meetings.

The right-handed pitcher who is also a threat as a left-handed hitting outfielder, will not be able to command the mega contracts that other Japanese players like Masahiro Tanaka have done in the past.

Under the new MLB collective bargaining agreement, reached last winter, Otani's earning would be limited by the international player signing pool.

That means teams would be limited to offering him a signing bonus that is capped by their remaining international signing pool money. That is a restriction for international players under the age of 25. That means right now, Otani's signing bonus would be maxed out at around $3.5 million.



AP

Japan's starter Shohei Otani pitches against South Korea during the first inning of their semifinal game at the Premier12 world baseball tournament at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015.

The team would then sign Otani to a minor league contract. That would limit his hit to the payroll—at least initially.

With the Mets looking to keep their payroll under the $154.4 million that they had on Opening Day last year, making a play for Otani is a very price-effective way to make a big splash this winter.

And the Mets definitely need that after a lackluster 2017 season and to try to kick off a new era in Flushing under first-year manager Mickey Callaway.

And the Mets could be very attractive to Otani, who has made it clear that he would like to continue playing on both sides of the ball like he does in Japan.

Not only does New York offer perhaps the biggest opportunity to market himself and earn endorsement money to make up for that shortfall in contract and salary, but it would be a comfortable situation for him on the field.

With the Mets being a pitching-centric team with a lot of starting pitching right now, they could limit his starts to every sixth day, more like the schedule he would be used to coming from Japanese baseball.

In the National League, Otani would be able to continue being a force at the plate and on the mound.

He has also selected CAA, the people that handle Jacob deGrom, Noah Syndergaard and Yoenis Cespedes, as his representatives, meaning they have a familiarity with what the Mets can offer.

Otani is an impact player on both sides of the ball.

Since 2013, in 82 starts (and three relief appearances) Otani has a 2.52 ERA in 543 innings with the Nippon-Ham Fighters. Over that span, he has allowed just 24 home runs. He has averaged 10.3 strikeouts per nine innings and just 3.3 walks per nine.

And he's not just a good hitting pitcher. Otani has a career .286 batting average with a .358 on-base percentage and .500 slugging percentage.

And he'd be coming from a place all too familiar to most Mets players in 2017. Otani missed the World Baseball Classic in 2017 because of an ankle injury. He then had a thigh injury that had him out for a few months.

Girardi 'a little shocked' when Yanks let him go

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Joe Girardi expected to be back for an 11th season as New York Yankees manager.

"I was a little shocked," he said of his dismissal Tuesday after attending a meeting of Major League Baseball's competition committee.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman announced his decision Oct. 26, and then explained last week he made the move because of "ability to fully engage, communicate, connect with the playing personnel."

Girardi said he wasn't disappointed about the statements.

"I'm one that (is) pretty aware of what happens and what goes on inside a clubhouse ... so I don't ever worry about that," he said.

"You know, it's life," he added. "You understand that you have to move on. I invested a lot of time in there and have a lot of great memories there. But this is part of life. When you take a job as a manager, you know that this is a possibility, and you have to deal with this. You also get to deal with the other side, the excitement of being hired."

His 910-710 regular-season record with the Yankees is sixth in victories managing the team, and he led New York to its 27th World Series title in 2009.

Girardi anticipates having discussions after Thanksgiving about working as a broadcaster for a national network. He will not return next year to the Yankees' YES Network, where he worked in 2007 before he was hired to manage the team.

"I think that would be kind of strange," he said.

New York has interviewed bench coach Rob Thomson and former Cleveland and Seattle manager Eric Wedge for the opening, and Cashman expects interviews to resume after the general managers' meetings this week. Girardi is aware of the search.

"It's hard not to, because if you go on a website or if you're watching TV, it flashes across the bottom," he said. "But it's not something that I'm paying close attention to."

Former Yankees captain Derek Jeter, now in charge of the Miami Marlins' baseball and business operations, was part of the competition committee meeting.

"I'm going to stay with it as long as they want me. So it's kind of what I do," Girardi said, laughing.

Also at the meetings, Cashman said Jacoby Ellsbury will start spring training as a fourth outfielder behind left fielder Brett Gardner, center fielder Aaron Hicks and right fielder Aaron Judge. Ellsbury's season was slowed by a concussion that sidelined him for a month starting in late May, and aftereffects caused a subpar performance through August.

Italy defeat no surprise: Sweden is jinx opponent

MILAN (AP)—Italy's failure to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in six decades shouldn't come as a shock to those who believe in fate, destiny and jinxes.

Yes, Italy was expected to beat Sweden in their playoff. But the Scandinavian country has been associated with some of the Azzurri's darkest moments in football.

Italy's run of bad luck with Sweden dates all the way back to 1950 when, having won the previous two World Cups, it suffered its first ever defeat in the tournament—at the hands of the Swedes. As a result, it failed to progress to the second round.

Eight years later, Italy needed just a point to qualify for the World Cup but surprisingly lost to Northern Ireland. That was the last time Italy failed to qualify for the World Cup. The tournament was held in Sweden.

And the last time Italy failed to qualify for a major tournament, was the 1992 European Championship. The Azzurri had to beat the USSR to qualify but hit the post in a 0-0 draw and missed out on the finals -- held in Sweden.

Italy also failed to qualify for Euro 1984 despite being the then world champion, after two qualifying defeats to Sweden—including a 3-0 loss in Naples.

Perhaps the most famous incident of Sweden costing Italy dearly came at Euro 2004.

Only one result would have knocked Italy out of the tournament. Denmark and Sweden were angered by suggestions they would throw the game to progress together. But the match between the Nordic neighbors ended in a 2-2 draw and the Azzurri were out.

That match was one of those where a certain result suits both teams, and Italians remain embittered -- with players being asked about it in the buildup to Monday's playoff.

In the previous game at Euro 2004, Zlatan Ibrahimovic had burst onto the international stage with an astonishing back-heeled goal five minutes from time to secure a 1-1 draw for Sweden against Italy.

And after beating Italy 1-0 on aggregate in the playoffs for the 2018 World Cup, Sweden is yet again Italian soccer fans' least favorite country.

Meanwhile, Italy's national soccer team needs a serious injection of youth to recover from its failure to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in six decades.

Goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, defender Andrea Barzagli and midfielder Daniele De Rossi—the three holdovers from the squad that won the country's fourth World Cup in 2006—announced they were retiring from the national team in the aftermath of a 1-0 aggregate loss to Sweden in a playoff.

Veteran defender Giorgio Chiellini was also considering retirement.

"We all need to take a step back to reset the movement," Chiellini said. "It's the lowest point in modern times for Italian soccer. We need to take advantage of this moment to redesign a new squad."

Italy coach Gian Piero Ventura is sure to go, and there are also calls for soccer federation president Carlo Tavecchio to step down.

So who's left for the Azzurri?

The easiest answer to that question comes in goal, where 18-year-old AC Milan starter Gianluigi Donnarumma is set to replace Buffon.

In defense, Leonardo Bonucci could be the only holdover from the "BBC" trio with Barzagli and Chiellini. Younger defenders on the horizon include Daniele Rugani, Alessio Romagnoli and Mattia Caldara.

Popovich gets milestone in Spurs victory

DALLAS (AP)—The hometown kid ensured that San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich would get a milestone victory in Dallas.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 32 points in his hometown and the Spurs beat the Mavericks 97-91 on Tuesday night.

Popovich became the fastest NBA coach to 500 road wins. He got there in 835 away games, 41 fewer than Pat Riley. Those two and Don Nelson are the only coaches to win 500 on the road.

Aldridge, a product of Dallas' Seagoville High School, scored eight points during a decisive stretch of the fourth quarter. He's averaging nearly 23 points per game this season while San Antonio has been without starters Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker.

"I think I'm definitely more confident and I'm playing my game more this year," Aldridge said. "I think Pop definitely has tweaked some things where I can be myself more out there and play more confident, and it's working out for us."

Aldridge's coach notices the change in the forward's second year in San Antonio.

"He's been our most consistent player," Popovich said. "His effort level every night has been off the charts. He's been a leader for us, helping the younger guys and new guys understand the system."

Patty Mills added a season-high 19 points for the Spurs.

Rookie Dennis Smith Jr. led Dallas with a career-high 27 points, and J.J. Barea and Harrison Barnes had 16 each. The Mavericks are 2-13 for the second straight season and fifth time overall.

Just like in a loss to Cleveland on Saturday, the Mavericks cut a double-digit second-half deficit to one point, but couldn't gain the lead.

"Every time we made a mental lapse, they got going," Barnes said. "We know that is what they are going to do here and capitalize every time we made a mistake."

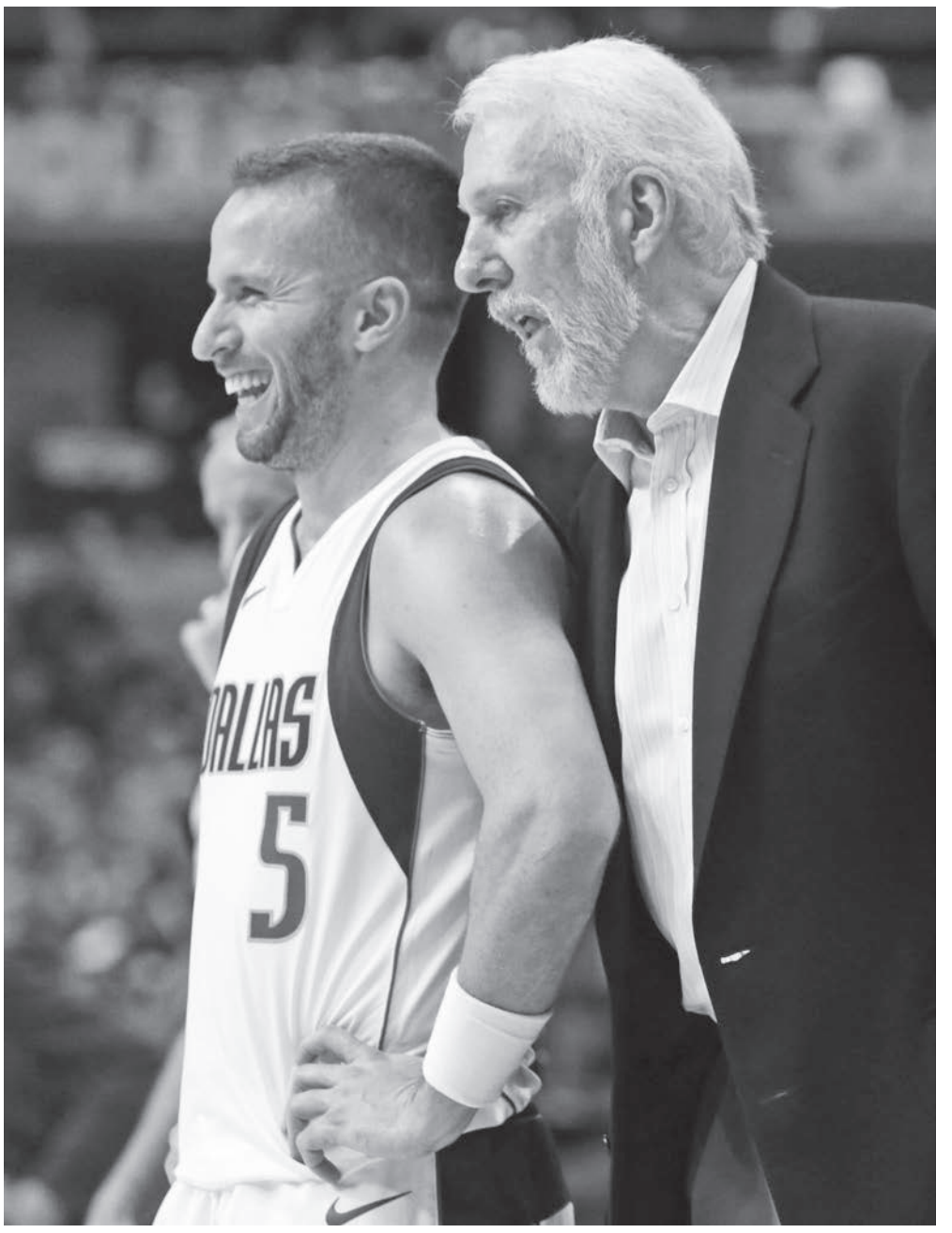
After Dallas got within 62-61 early in the fourth, Mills hit a long 3 and a driving layup, then Aldridge scored eight of his team's next 13 points to put the Spurs up 82-71 with 5:03 to play. Dallas never got closer than four points down the stretch.

The Spurs led by 11 during the third quarter, but Barea made back-to-back 3s and fed Salah Mejri an alley-oop pass for a layup as Dallas closed the quarter on a 9-0 run to get within 62-60.

Mills scored 13 points in the first six minutes of the second quarter, including three 3s. Aldridge was hit with a technical foul with 3:33 left in the second quarter for shoving the Mavericks' Salah Mejri after a scrap under the Mavericks basket.

The Spurs led 44-39 at the break.

Popovich was asked before the game how he handles the rush of letters and emails responding to his political comments: "I do read everything and I try to respond. It takes time because there's a lot of letters. The only ones I don't respond to are the ones are so courageous in their negativity that there's no address, just comments. That's hard to respond to. But there are people who disagree and say why, and it's erudite and intelligible and (I say), `Yeah, you've got a point.' Those people deserve to be responded to."



AP

San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich, right, talks to Dallas Mavericks guard J.J. Barea (5) during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks in Dallas, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017. The Spurs won, 97-91.

Celtics 109, Nets 102

In New York, Kyrie Irving really dislikes having to play in a mask.

On the other hand, he loves what comes next: Boston putting its 13-game winning streak on the line against the NBA champions.

"It's definitely an incredible streak we're on, and now comes the whole media frenzy of will the streak end, and what's going to happen on Thursday and the Golden State Warriors coming to Boston," Irving said. "So I'm looking forward to all that hoopla."

Irving returned to the lineup and scored 25 points while wearing the mask, and the Celtics beat the Brooklyn Nets 109-102 on Tuesday night to remain unbeaten since an 0-2 start.

Marcus Morris added 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Jayson Tatum scored 19 points for the Celtics, who have the NBA's best record. Golden State is next at 11-3, and Boston got good preparation for the game against a persistent Brooklyn team.

"The way that they converted on us in transition after our mistakes tonight, you can't have that against Golden State. You just get blown out of the gym," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "We just have to play really solid on both ends and do what we do as well as we can and see where we stand."

Irving missed one game with a minor facial fracture after he was hit by teammate Aron Baynes on Friday. He fiddled with the mask frequently, but it didn't seem to affect his play much. He made a jumper with 3:40 left after the Nets had closed within four points and drove for another basket about 35 seconds later.

"Today, just finding his way and doing what he does, making big plays for us, coming through and sealing the game," said Celtics center Al Horford, who had 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Raptors 129, Rockets 113

In Toronto, the Raptors have struggled to close out games against good teams this season.

They solved that Tuesday night, getting 27 points from DeMar DeRozan while holding off the Rockets despite a couple late runs by Houston.

Just as important, DeRozan thinks he knows the key for Toronto holding leads going forward.

"Liking this feeling," he said. "You've got to love this feeling so you don't got to go out there having too many of them close games that you lost, feeling upset, got to wait until the next game. You've got to want to continue to have this feeling and that should work out everything else."

Toronto led by 12 at halftime and had to repeatedly shut down rally attempts from the Rockets.

"Consistency in this league is a hard thing to grab, and that's what we've got to reach for, grab for each and every night," Toronto coach Dwane Casey said. "If we could bottle tonight, the energy, the toughness, the togetherness we had tonight, it (would be) special."

James Harden had 38 points and made 19 of 19 foul shots for the Rockets, who ended a six-game winning streak.

"We weren't sharp," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Sometimes you let down and it's hard to turn it back on. We tried, we got close in the second half, but we just didn't have enough."

Houston scored six straight points, including three free throws from Harden, to make it 108-103 with about 7 1/2 minutes left.

Injury to Arizona's Stanton may clear way for Gabbert

PHOENIX (AP)—A knee injury to quarterback Drew Stanton could clear the way for Blaine Gabbert to make his debut for the Arizona Cardinals.

Stanton sprained a knee early in Thursday night's 22-16 loss to Seattle. He gutted it out the rest of the game but it's not known whether he will be able to go on Sunday against the Texans in Houston.

After four days off, the Cardinals regrouped Tuesday and coach Bruce Arians wasn't forthcoming about Stanton's status, except to say that he practiced. Whether he was limited wasn't known because no injury report is required until Wednesday.

Arians, who has been with Stanton for six seasons, said the quarterback's toughness is "at the top of the chart."

"This isn't the first time I've seen him gut it up like that," Arians said. "But, yeah, he's off the charts. That's why his teammates love him."

Arians said the knee problem affected Stanton "on two or three throws. The one to John Brown, especially, it gave out on him. That is the one that we'd all like to have back. There was maybe one or two others."

Stanton has started two games since Carson Palmer was lost for the season with a broken left arm, a win at San Francisco and a loss to the Seahawks. He is 7-4 as a starter in his five seasons with Arizona.

Gabbert was signed in the offseason. Immediate speculation was that he would battle Stanton for the backup quarterback spot. But Stanton, who is extremely close to Arians, had that job sewn up from the start and Gabbert was relegated to third string.

Last Thursday night was the first time this season that Gabbert was suited up for a game, serving as Stanton's backup.

With Stanton's uncertain status, the reps are increasing for Gabbert this week.

"He got a bunch last week, but he'll get more this week," Arians said. "We'll try to get Matt (Barkley) something along the lines."

The Cardinals signed Barkley on Monday to add another quarterback to the mix.

Barkley came to Arizona in a trade at the end of the 2015 preseason. He was with the team all season but never was active on game day. He was released by Arizona at the end of the 2016 preseason.

Barkley played in seven games for Chicago last season, six as a starter, completing 59 percent of his passes for eight touchdowns and 14 interceptions. He was with San Francisco this preseason but was released before the regular season began.

Arians was asked what a quarterback injured in a prior game has to show in practice in order to play the following week.

"Protect himself, number one, being able to get out of harm's way, or you're really going to get hurt," the coach said. "He (Stanton) was able to do that in that ball game, and he moved around great. He was gutting it up, but he could stay out of harm's way.

Gold Ballers still in playoff contention

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Back-to-back wins in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League over the weekend kept the Gold Ballers' playoff hopes alive.

The Gold Ballers first defeated the Green Minded, 88-77, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium and then stunned playoff qualifier Batang Bear Brand in overtime last Sunday, 91-79, to improve its record to 4-6 for a tie with Vendetta for ninth to 10th place in the team standings.

Only the Top 8 teams will advance to the playoffs and with one game left in the elimination, the Gold Ballers could still catch up with three other teams—Spigen (5-5), Green Minded (5-6), and Team Sawi (4-5) for the last three tickets to the next round.

Againts Batang Bear Brand (6-3), the Gold Ballers held its opponents to a field goal in overtime for the 12-point win. Multiple players scored for the Gold Ballers in the extension, while Ron Gamboa made the only basket for Batang Bear Brand.

Five Gold Ballers players ended up with double figures in their upset over Batang Bear Brand. Dan Mateo led the way after recording 24 points, 3 in the extra period. Prince Factor added 17 with 5 of them coming in overtime, while Dennis Cortez, Raymond Velasco, and Arvin Avila all hit the board in the extension and finished with 14, 13, and 12 markers, respectively.

Gamboa had 24 points for Batang Bear Brand, while Hal Spott chipped in 19.

The Gold Ballers also played a team basketball to beat Green Minded last Saturday.

Factor tallied 16 points, Velasco contributed 14, and Mateo registered 13. Leomo made 12 points, while Bryan Manabat and Rommel Usi had 10 apiece to complete the Gold Ballers' balance offense.

While the Gold Ballers spread the wealth, it was a different case for the Green Minded, which relied on the 33 points of Ivan Devero. Ramil Tibayan was the only other Green Minded player to score in twin digits, but his 10 markers were scattered.

Saturday Game

Gold Ballers 88 — Factor 13, Velasco 14, Mateo 13, Leomo 12, Manabat 10, Usi 10, Alano 9.

Green Minded 77 — Devero 31, Tibayan 11, Barrios 9, Itaas 8, Armia 6, Santos 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-17, 42-36, 68-58, 88-77.

Sunday Game

Gold Ballers 91 — Mateo 24, Factor 17, Cortez 14, Velasco 12, Avila 12, Leomo 4, Usi 3, Alano 2.

BBB 79 — Gamboa 24, Spott 19, Esdrelon 15, Che 12, Ariar 6, Devero 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-23, 35-32, 56-55, 77-77, 91-79 (OT).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Gold Ballers' Dennis Cortez, right, challenges two Empe Light players for the rebound during an earlier game in the IT&E-sponsored 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Federer reaches semis of ATP Finals

LONDON—Roger Federer held young pretender Alexander Zverev at bay in a gripping contest Tuesday to reach the last four of the ATP Finals and stay on course for a seventh end-of-season crown.

The world number two saw off a spirited challenge from the much-hyped German 7-6 (8/6), 5-7, 6-1 in front of a boisterous pro-Federer crowd to become the first man through to the last four at the O2 Arena.

"It was a good battle and I always enjoy myself at this beautiful arena," said Federer, who has now reached the semi-finals 14 times. "I have so much fun playing in London and I have been so successful here. Thank you for making it such a special night. I'm happy and relieved that I can play freely against (Marin) Cilic, instead of it being a nailbiter. It's been a tough group so to be through in two matches is great."

Both players were scratchy on serve at the start of the match but were quickly into the groove in a tight first set that saw no breaks of serve, though Zverev had to fend off two set points in the 12th game to force a tie-break.

AP

Roger Federer returns to Alexander Zverev during their match on Day 3 of the ATP Finals at the O2 Arena in London, Tuesday Nov. 14, 2017. Federer guaranteed his place in Saturday's semifinals by defeating Alexander Zverev, 7-6, 5-7, 6-1.

The 20-year-old third seed raced into a 4-0 advantage only to see the Swiss charge back to lead 5-4. Zverev earned a set point of his own at 6-5 but could not convert and Federer made his third set point count.

The 19-time Grand Slam champion broke in the first game of the second set to establish an iron grip on the round-robin match but Zverev hit back in the fourth to get back on level terms.

Federer only landed 43 percent of first serves in the second set and it finally cost him in the 12th game, when Zverev capitalised on his third set point to force a decider.

The Swiss re-found his focus and some consistency on serve in the decider as Zverev's level dipped, earning three breaks to close it out 6-1.

Zverev has been touted as the leader of a pack of young players hungry to oust the creaking old guard but Federer, who has suffered only four defeats all year, shows no sign of slipping.

Coming into the match Federer, 36, and Zverev had faced each other four times and each had won twice.

This year, Federer beat the German in Halle but Zverev returned the favour at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

Earlier, also in the Boris Becker group, Jack Sock kept his dreams of a fairytale finish to his season alive, beating Wimbledon finalist Marin Cilic 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4).

"It's been an interesting morning so far," said the American. "The fire alarm went off at 4:00 am and we had to exit the building. But I love playing here in London. It's an amazing atmosphere, you make me feel like home."

The top two players from each of the two groups of four progress to the semifinals.

MPU

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team scored the most (75) among the six squads and also yielded the least (6). NDA, which registered a 2-0-8 mark, only had 13 goals and gave up 47.

In other results in the boys U17 division, Matansa and TanHoldings posted contrasting wins in their respective games.

Matansa eased past Paire, 10-0, to dislodge TanHoldings at the No. 2 rankings.

Louie Calayag led Matansa's demolition of the last-ranked Paire (2-0-8) after firing four goals, while Brandon Reyes added three. Ronnel Ocanada, Davy Laxa, and Alan Hinson contributed one each for Matansa, which collected 46 goals and allowed 15 this season.

TanHoldings, on the other hand, gained 20 goals and yielded 12 after a 2-1 triumph over Kanoa. Mareko Tekopua and Albert Bergancia tallied the goals in TanHoldings' last game and the squad finished the season with a 6-2-2 slate. Kanoa, which drew its lone goal from Andruw Omelau, placed fourth in the rankings with its 2-1-7 mark, 14 goals for, and 46 goals against.

Meanwhile, in the boys U14 division, MP United engaged Kanoa to a scoreless draw last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field, allowing the former to preserve its unbeaten record (7-0-3).

MP United, which secured the division championship in the penultimate week of the league following a 5-0 win over Paire, had the third most goals this season with 26, but gave up the least (7).

TanHoldings earned the distinction of having the most goals (35) in the division after a 12-1 victory over Paire last weekend, but the former was ranked only third in the final standings with its 5-3-2 slate. Taka Borja delivered five goals in TanHoldings' last match of the season, while Anthony Bergancia and Ezekiel Canape logged two each. Kohtaro Goto, Oliver Fajardo, and Reginald Pascual scored one goal apiece, while Paire's lone goal came from Kaden Church.

Matansa finished ahead of TanHoldings at No. 2 following a 1-0 triumph over Shirley's. Matansa wrapped up the season with a 6-1-3 record and also gained the second most goals in the division with 29. Lolobeyong Benito posted the only goal in Matansa's win over Shirley's, which is ranked fourth in the final standings after recording a 4-2-4 slate.

YOUNGSTER

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Lee breezed through after going 1-up at No. 7 and went 3-up after No. 9 that was highlighted by an almost 30-foot putt. The youngster padded his lead to 5-up going to No. 15 and that was it, as Togawa could no longer overcome her opponent's lead.

Meanwhile, Olopai defeated Jang for the Seniors' crown, 5-up. His other wins were against Joe Tenorio and Eli Buenaventura, while Jang dispatched Manny Mangarero and John Cepeda to earn a finals berth.

Tenorio came in at third, while Mangarero was fourth. Dennis Williams and Alex Tudela were the other Seniors qualifiers.

In the women's division, Noriko Togawa finished second with Young Sook Kwon and Yu Ri Kim ending up at third and fourth. Masayo Miyamoto, Chang Hee Yoo Me Ae Jeon also qualified in the women's match play.

Edward Lee, aside from being the overall Club Lao champion, also ruled the men's side with Jin as the runner-up and Ryan Kim coming in at third. Kang was fourth in the men's division. J.J. Atalig, Young Woo Lee, and Gi Yeong Kim were the other qualifiers in the men's match play.

STRONG

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Japan, while El Joshua Carino and Ronald Lomotos will team up with Morales under Philippine Navy-Standard Insurance. Lloyd Lucien Reynante and Angelico Ochoa will represent Team XTREME. El Joshua is the other half of the up-and-coming Carino brothers who had a 1-2 finish in the Tarlac leg of Ronda's qualifying race.

EVO Sports and Success teams will be representing Hong Kong with former European pro Paolo Caputo, and national riders Chi Ho Yuen and Bryan Kai Chun Wong, and two-time female Olympian Jamie Wan-Yiu Wong leading their charge.

Sing Lam Wan, Tsun Hin Chiu, Chris Lee, female rider Chau Yu Ng will be racing under Team Success together with Bryan Wong and Jamie Wong. Lee is entered in the men's 45-49 age division. Caputo, a former pro rider from Italy but now resides in Hong Kong, and Yuen will race under the banner of EVO Sports.

Japanese male pro Yamato Kanematsu and female rider Yasue Nakahara will carry Team Small along with Guam's Manami Iijima.

Most of the Hong Kong and Japanese riders are expected to arrive on Saipan on Nov. 30, while Caputo and the entire Philippine delegation will be on the island one day before the race.

2017 NMA All Schools Cross Country Finals

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Young runners in the boys and girls U7, U9, and U11 age groups head toward the one-mile course during last Saturday's 2017 Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Finals held at the Saipan Country Club.

A participant in the boys U7 division keeps his pace as he heads to the finish line.

Phoenix Gross runs in front of a fellow Saipan International School student.

William S. Reyes Elementary School's Imtiaz Nadim, left, slows down as he crosses the finish line ahead of Saipan International School second grader Kelly McCallion.

An Agape Christian School student, left, checks the runner to her left as they near the finish line.

Brilliant Star School' Savita Sikkel, right, slows down to get her finishers ticket after completing the one-lap course.

Saipan International School's Dana Lee is on her way to a third place finish in the girls U11 division.

Saipan International School's Kaden Church, left, sprints toward the finish line ahead of three other runners to win the boys U15 division.

Mets set eyes on Japanese 'Babe Ruth'

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Sports

Popovich gets milestone in Spurs victory

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Unbeaten season for MPU

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club capped the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League with undefeated records in the boys U14 and U17 divisions.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

Two weeks after clinching the boys U17 title, MP United completed its domination in its group after a 12-1 victory against the National Developing Academy last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field. MP United, which is the only club to have won the boys U17 division crown (four times) since Northern Mariana Islands Football Association switched from boys U18 to the current age group, wrapped up this year's fall season with a 9-1-0 win-draw-loss record—two victories ahead of runner-up Matansa FC (7-0-3).

Sunjoon Tenorio, Dai Podziewski, Skyler Poon, and Jonah Pohl scored two goals each in MP United's emphatic win, while Eun Syu Hahn, Anthony Fruit, Clayton Izuka, and Alex Park chipped in one apiece. NDA avoided a shutout loss after getting an own goal in the second half.

With MP United's 12 goals in its last game this season, the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rohan Basnet, center, leads MP United Football Club's attack during their first round game against Kanoa FC in the boys U14 division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

JON PEREZ
Young Dong "Edward" Lee watches the direction of his tee shot during his finals game against Yuko Togawa in last Sunday's match play of the Club Lao golf tournament on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Youngster Lee, veteran Olopai rule Club Lao

By JON PEREZ
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Youngster Dong Young "Edward" Lee and veteran Tars Olopai emerged as champions of the match play event of the Annual Club Lao Charity Golf Tournament held last weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Lee won the Open Club Championship against Yuko Togawa, while Olopai took the Seniors title over Hyew Duck Jang.

The 14-year-old Lee, who won the low gross category in the Marianas International Cup 2017 a few weeks ago, was among the eight qualifiers in the men's division, while Togawa joined three others in the women's side. Lee breezed through the men's division finals by dispatching Jong Hoon Park, 5-up, and followed it up with another 5-up decision over Seung Woo Kang. The junior golfer then faced Feng Chun Jin in the men's finals and he won, 3 1/2-up, to earn a shot at the overall crown.

Togawa earned the right of facing Lee after beating her mother Noriko, 3-up. Yuko, whose other wins were against Yuri Kim and Shiori Onoue, ran out of luck in her finals matchup against Lee. It was a see-saw battle in the first six holes before

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Strong field in Hell of Marianas

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Reigning Hell of the Marianas champion Jan Paul Morales is expected to face a strong field in his bid for back-to-back pro/elite titles in the 11th edition of the punishing century-distance cycling race set for Dec. 2.

Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle

As of yesterday, 18 pros (14 males and four females), including Morales, have already confirmed their participation in this year's race. Hong Kong will be represented by seven cyclists, five male and two female, while Japan will have three riders (two males and one female).

Morales, on the other hand, will be joined by six other cyclists from three different teams in the Philippines, including former LBC Ronda Pilipinas champion and another returning HOM competitor Mark John Lexer Galedo of Team 7 Eleven Roadbike Philippines. Morales, who completed the 100-kilometer race in 3:04:50, is also the reigning Ronda champion while Galedo is the 2014 overall winner of the Le Tour de Filipinas. Viel Carino will ride with Galedo for 7 Eleven along with teammate Daisuke Kaneko of

See STRONG on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Team Philippine Navy-Standard Insurance's Jan Paul Morales, center, makes his way up toward Radar Hill along with fellow Philippine pros Mark Galedo, left, and Joe Miller during a practice ride in last year's Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.